

Majali denies making Golan comment

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Wednesday denied a statement attributed to him by Tuesday's issue of the London-based Al Hayat Arabic daily on the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan Heights. Al Hayat quoted Dr. Majali as telling deputies in a closed session that what hampered the drafting of an agenda known as the "Palestinian Golan" which Egypt considers to be Palestinian and subsequently should be negotiated between Israel and the Palestinians. Dr. Majali said the statement attributed to him by the newspaper was baseless and said Jordan refuses any attempts to "bring with full confidence in the unity of goals and destiny as well as achieving a comprehensive peace that would bring us back all our rights and guarantee the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338." He said that Jordan was looking forward to discussing all issues of common interest with Syria at the meetings of the two countries' higher joint committee due to convene in Amman next week.

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Cabinet undergoes major reshuffle

18 ministers replaced; two portfolios change hands; 10 incumbents retain their posts

Inclusion of 10 deputies seen aimed at strengthening government

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Wednesday introduced a major reshuffle to his government, bringing in 18 new ministers and changing the portfolios of two ministers. Ten ministers retained their posts.

Of the new ministers who took the oath before His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday, 12 will hold a cabinet position for the first time, six are former ministers, 10 are deputies and one a member of the Upper House of Parliament — Thouqan Al Hindawi, who joined as deputy prime minister (see list).

Sixteen ministers, including deputy prime ministers Ma'n Abu Nowar and Saeed Al Tel, left the Cabinet while Hisham Al Khatib moved from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to the Ministry of Planning and Minister of State Fawaz Abu Al Ghanam moved to the

Ministry of Youth. Minister of Information Jawad Al Anani said after the reshuffle that King Hussein, in endorsing the change, emphasised the need for cooperation between the executive and legislative branches of government.

He said the reshuffle was aimed at consolidating the cooperation between the two arms of government and strengthening the performance of the Cabinet in light of the fast changes in the area and the peace process.

"(Due to these developments) Jordan will play a clear and influential role in the area and that requires that we pool and unite our energy and direct it towards strengthening" the country, Dr. Anani said.

Observers said the reshuffle of the government became imminent Saturday after the Kingdom announced it was starting fresh talks with Israel over border demarcation, water and economic development.

The reshuffle, the second in



The new ministers who were sworn in before His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Dr. Majali's government since he took office in May 1993, came one day after the premier held formal negotiations to form what observers called a politically strong government

in light of the growing parliamentary opposition that the Cabinet was facing. Unlike the first reshuffle in November, observers said Dr. Majali was able this time to

bring in political heavyweights from inside and outside the Lower House of Parliament. Observers said the inclusion of Dr. Hindawi, who refused to join the Majali government

Fariz named advisor to Crown Prince

Ziad Fariz, who served as planning minister in several governments since 1988 and left the Majali government on Wednesday, was appointed as advisor to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan with immediate effect.

when it was first formed and during the first reshuffle, was the "breakthrough" that Dr. Majali needed to convince members of the House to serve on his team.

They said Dr. Hindawi, a former deputy prime minister and chief of the Royal Court, is a "strong politician with a clear agenda who enjoyed support and respect at the House."

According to many observers, Dr. Hindawi will play a key role in running the internal

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FOLLOWING is the list of Jordan's new 31-member Cabinet:

Prime Minister, defence and foreign affairs: Abdul Salam Majali
Deputy Prime Minister: Thouqan Al Hindawi
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs: Taha Al Hassan
Minister of State for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs: Abdul Baqi Jammoh
Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Education: Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh
Minister of State for Administrative Development: Mohammad Thneibat
Minister of State: Mohammad Thweib
Minister of State: Abdullah Jazi
Minister of State: Yousef Al Dallabih
Information: Jawad Al Anani
Higher Education: Rafeh Saoud
Energy and Mineral Resources: Taha Ureigat
Tourism: Mohammad Adwan
Justice: Hisham Tel
Planning: Hisham Khatib
Trade and Industry: Rima Khalaf
Culture: Jumana Hammad
Agriculture and Forestry: Abdul Salam Abbadi
Rural, Municipal and Environmental: Tawfiq Krishan
Water and Irrigation: Saleh Irsheidat
Finance: Sami Gammoh
Interior: Salameh Hammad
Social Development: Mohammad Sqaor
Housing and Public Works: Abdul Razzaq Ensour
Transportation: Samir Kassar
Supply: Adel Qudab
Labour: Khalid Ghazawi
Agriculture: Mansour Ben Tarif
Communications and Postal Services: Hashim Dabbas
Health: Aref Batayneh

Israel agrees to demarcate Jordan borders, study fair water sharing

PLO invited to discuss aspects of economic accord touching Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan on Wednesday described as highly important and significant the agreement the Kingdom reached with Israel to start negotiations on demarcating their borders and water sharing, issues the Jewish state has been avoiding since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli peace

process in September 1991. Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said: "We have affirmed one basic principle: The ceasefire lines will change to international and recognised borders, which stress the unity of Jordanian territories, preempt any designs on them and preserve the Jordanian entity."

He said the two sides had based their agreement on two main points: That the British

mandate coordinates will be the reference for defining the border and that the borders will be delineated on the ground.

Dr. Anani was talking to reporters after two days of Jordanian-Israeli talks in Washington under the auspices of a trilateral commission which also includes the United States produced the agreement.

The information minister

said another major breakthrough was an agreement to work out a fair division of the waters of the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers now being exploited by Israel at the expense of Jordan. Regional and international conventions will be the basis for determining the share of each side, he said.

"We also agreed to look at the Jordan Valley project as a comprehensive project to discuss the development of its

infrastructure and to develop large projects which will be discussed for the future," he said.

"We agreed to conduct a number of studies that will pave the way to establish large development projects in the area," Dr. Anani said.

In this context the major project is a desalination project linked to a Jordanian-

(Continued on page 5)

Ibrahimi begins Yemen mission as fighting rages

Combined agency despatches

RIVAL YEMENI armies firing shells and rockets fought for control of the land stronghold of Aden on Wednesday, sending distraught civilians fleeing for the shelter of the city.

U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi urged both sides in the month-long civil war to stop fighting immediately and resume negotiations when he arrived here from Cairo.

In a statement to reporters at Sanaa International airport,

Mr. Ibrahimi, a former Algerian foreign minister, said he was starting his fact-finding mission to Yemen "with an open mind and a very strong desire to help the brothers in Yemen solve their problems."

Mr. Ibrahimi's mission is in line with a U.N. Security Council resolution adopted last week calling on forces loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh and those of his southern rival Ali Salem Al Beidh to implement an immediate ceasefire.

The in-fighting between brothers must stop and give way to

resuming negotiations," Mr. Ibrahimi said.

He said his mission was "not very easy," but it was "a great honour."

"I know I can count on the support of my friends in Yemen,"

Referring to his experience as a mediator in South Africa, Mr. Ibrahimi said he was confident the Yemenis could overcome their differences in a similar fashion.

"Dialogue must be started between (Yemeni) brothers

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Israel and PLO argue on prisoners as time runs out

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A deadline expired Wednesday for Palestinian prisoner releases scheduled to take place within five weeks of the May 4 signing of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) deal on Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

PLO officials said 3,000 men remained behind bars, as each side accused the other of going against the agreement setting a total of about 5,000 releases.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin declined to say how many prisoners were still in custody.

But PLO officials said that in any case they would refuse to cooperate in any more prisoner releases because of an Israeli condition the freed men stay in the self-rule areas until they finish the period of their sentences.

The Israeli spokesman, Oded Ben-Ami, said Israel was following the Cairo agreement to the letter.

According to an English language text of the agreement released by Israel, prisoner releases are divided into two categories: Some prisoners are freed outright and others "turned over" to the Palestinian authority.

Israel will release, or turn over, to the Palestinian authority within a period of five weeks, about 5,000 Palestinian detainees and prisoners, residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the agreement said.

Those released will be free to return to their homes anywhere in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. Prisoners turned over to the Palestinian author-

ity shall be obliged to remain in the Gaza Strip or the Jericho area for the remainder of their sentence," it added.

The agreement did not specify how many of the 5,000 to be released as a "confidence-building measure" belonged to each category.

Palestinian prisoners slammed the PLO issuing a harsh letter accusing the leadership of pursuing foreign donations with greater zeal than their release.

"Where is the wise leadership for our issue," said the letter published in Al Quds, the leading Arabic daily.

Although no leaders were singled out by name, the term leadership is generally used to refer to Mr. Arafat and his immediate circle.

It said by limiting their focus on the financial promises of the donors, the leadership had "forgotten that there are prisoners who also have the right to live in peace and stability."

The letter followed repeated statements by Mr. Arafat and other officials that he would not go to the self-rule areas and finalise setting up his government until hundreds of millions of dollars in promised aid start flowing.

Mr. Sarid, the first Israeli cabinet minister to visit the Palestinian self-rule areas, criticised the head of a Jewish seminary for mixing religion with politics and provoking Palestinian police.

"There is no reason in the world to treat the Palestinian police as you have done," Mr. Sarid told the seminary's Rabbi Mordecai Rabinovich during

(Continued on page 5)

Arafat to prod donors for funds

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has said he will try to prod international donors into releasing funds they have pledged in support of Palestinian self-rule in remarks published Wednesday.

Mr. Arafat told the Arabic-language daily Al Quds he would attend a donors' conference scheduled to begin in Paris on Thursday, saying: "I will attend the conference in order to approve the aid."

"The donor nations will decide an exact time to start implementing the funding despite their stringent conditions and somewhat heavy routine."

He said he was placing the donor nations under the obligation of "fulfilling their promises and we will not let them off unless they meet their pledges."

"We must continuously struggle with the donors in order to convince them of our projects, and our country's infrastructure needs," he said.

International donors have pledged about \$2.4 billion to help the new Palestinian Authority set up self-rule and develop the economy.

But Palestinians have complained they have hardly seen any of the promised money.

A senior Palestinian economy expert told Al Quds that the authority's shortfall was

\$170 million, \$100 million of which had been pledged by international donors.

Hassan Abu Libdeh, head of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, said a list of urgent rehabilitation projects for 1994 would be reviewed in Paris. These have funds set aside by the World Bank.

Important investment projects covering infrastructure and human resources would also be presented at the Paris talks, he said.

"We are ready to funnel the money into projects and to cover ongoing costs."

There appears to be debate

(Continued on page 5)

THE FIRST SWIFT TRANSACTION FROM JORDAN

Jordan National Bank effected Sunday, June 5, 1994, at 10:39 a.m. the first transaction ever from Jordan, through SWIFT (Society For Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication).

As the name implies, SWIFT has become the most sophisticated and reliable financial telecommunication system worldwide, serving more than 4100 banks in 110 countries around the world with an average 2 million transactions daily.






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Profiles of first-time ministers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following are profiles of ministers appointed to the Cabinet for the first time.

Jumaa Hammad Minister of Culture

Born at Ouja near Beer Sabe in occupied Palestine in 1923, he completed his secondary education in Gaza in 1943. He became a businessman, and served as director of the Bureau for the Islamic Congress for Jerusalem in 1954. He established Al Manar newspaper in Jerusalem in 1961 and was its chief editor and later moved to Al Akhbar newspaper in Amman in 1961. He was its chief editor in 1962. He also served as director of Al Dostour daily and chief editor in 1967. He was appointed to the Senate in 1971 and became secretary general of the Arab National Union in 1973 and a member of the National Consultative Council in 1978. He was also director general of the Jordan Press Foundation. He was a member of the Senate until last year.

Adel Al Qudah Minister of Supply

Born in Salt in 1939, he finished his secondary education at Salt Secondary School and obtained his bachelor's degree in business administration. He obtained his masters in business administration from California State University in the U.S. He worked as director general of the Customs Department, the Income Tax Department and was head of the audit bureau until his appointment as minister of supply.

Abdullah Al Jazi Minister of State

Born in Adhroh near Ma'an in 1952, he completed his secondary education in Amman. He studied medicine in Cairo and graduated in 1979 to open a private clinic in Amman. He later became director of the Hijaz Railway. He has been secretary general of the Ministry of Post and Communications from 1985 until his appointment as minister of state.

Mansour Ben Tarif Minister of Agriculture

Born in Madaba in 1939, he obtained a B.A. in agriculture in 1961 from the American University of Beirut (AUB) and an M.A. in economics in 1963 also from AUB. He served with the Agricultural Credit Corporation from 1963 until 1966, then as deputy director of the corporation until 1982. He served at the Ministry of Post and Communications. He is a current member of Parliament.

Rateb Al Saoud Minister of Higher Education

Born in Tafleib in 1955, he obtained a B.A. from the University of Jordan, and an M.A. and doctorate from the University of Southern California in the U.S. His field of study was education. He worked as a teacher for seven years for the Ministry of Education then at Mu'ta University. He is a current member of Parliament.

Hashem Dabbas Minister of Communications and Postal Affairs

Born in Salt, obtained his B.A. in commerce from Cairo University and masters and doctorate degrees from the U.S. in 1963. He served as director of the Department of Statistics in 1970 and later as Minister of Industry and Trade secretary general until 1980, he became head of the Audit Bureau. He is a current member of Parliament.

Yousef Dalabih Minister of State

He is a career officer who graduated from Sandhurst Military Academy, Britain, in the mid-sixties. He attended advanced military studies at the Royal College of Defence Studies and the Defence College at Camberly, both in Britain. He served as assistant chief of staff of the Armed Forces after which he retired last year as major general. He also served as military secretary to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Hisham Al Tal Minister of Justice

Born in Irbid in 1942, he finished his secondary education at Raghadan School in Amman. He obtained a bachelor's degree in law from Damascus University in 1964. He was a practising lawyer until December 1991 when he was appointed a judge at the Higher Court of Justice. Four months ago he was appointed head of the Office of General Administrative Prosecution. Mr. Tal is single.

Talal Arekat Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources

Born in Abu Dees, Jerusalem in 1945, he completed his secondary education at the Bishop School in Jerusalem before joining the Armed Forces. Holder of a masters degree in military sciences, Mr. Arekat served in the Armed Forces for 30 years before retiring in 1992, ranked brigadier-general. Since 1992 until his appointment as minister, he served as personal secretary to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. During the course of his military service, he had several training courses in the United Kingdom and the U.S. between 1990-92, he was the Kingdom's military attaché in France. He is married with five children.

Mohammad Thuneibat Minister of State for Administrative Development

Dr. Thuneibat holds a PhD in public administration and was dean of the faculty of public administration at the Jordan University for Women until his appointment as head of the Public Administration Institute in Amman last year.



Six of the new cabinet members served as ministers in other cabinets other than Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali's. They are Thouqan Al Hindawi, Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, Abdul Baqi Jammoh, Samir Qawar, Saleh Irsheidat and Aref Batineh.

Iraq, U.S. remain Jordan's largest trade partners

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — By virtue of its oil supplies to Jordan under an exemption granted by the U.N. Sanctions Committee, Iraq remained the Kingdom's largest trading partner in 1993, accounting for JD 385 million in two-way trade, official statistics show.

The latest statistical bulletin of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) showed that Iraq sent crude and fuel oil worth JD 307 million to the Kingdom in 1993, registering an increase of JD 12 million over the corresponding figure for 1992.

The Iraqi oil supply to Jordan is exempt from the sweeping sanctions imposed against Iraq by the United Nations following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The supply comes in partial settlement of Iraqi debts to Jordan.

The CBJ bulletin said Jordan sent goods — food and medicine which are also exempt from the sanctions — worth JD 77 million to Iraq during 1993, again registering an increase of nearly JD 30 million over 1992.

The United States ranked as Jordan's second largest trading partner, accounting for JD 311 million in exports and JD 7.2 million in imports from Jordan. The figures compare with JD 246 million and JD 4.1 million respectively in 1992.

American credits and commodity import programmes account for a sizeable chunk of Jordanian imports from the U.S.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, during a visit to Jordan in late 1993, predicted a steep rise in American trade with the Kingdom if Amman enforced intellectual property protection laws and abandoned the secondary and tertiary boycott of U.S. firms dealing with Israel.

The secondary and tertiary bans are part of the overall Arab economic boycott of Israel.

Saudi Arabia ranked as the largest importer of Jordanian products in 1993 with JD 80 million (JD 70 million in 1992) worth of purchases from the Kingdom, followed by India in the third place after Iraq with JD 65.8 million (JD 96 million in 1992).

India imports from Jordan declined from 129 million in 1990 following the lifting of a government monopoly on phosphate and potash imports. At the same time, India also increased its exports to the Kingdom from JD 22 million in 1990 to JD 43 million in 1993. Jordan's trade with Arab World, including Iraq, were worth JD 785 million in 1993 — JD 500 million in imports and JD 285 million in exports — reflecting an increase of nine per cent and 20 per cent respectively over the figures for 1992.

A further split-up showed Jordan's trade with Arab countries during 1993 as: — Egypt: JD 28 million in exports to Jordan and JD 4.5 million in imports from Jordan

(JD 37 million and JD 4.08 million in 1992); — Syria: JD 32 million and JD 19 million (JD 21 million and JD 12.9 million in 1992); — Lebanon: JD 24 million and JD 17 million (JD 30 million and JD 9.7 million in 1992);

— Saudi Arabia: JD 48 million and JD 80 million (JD 39 million and JD 70 million in 1992);

— Kuwait: JD 1.87 million in exports and nil in imports from Jordan (JD 1.069 million and JD 186,000 in 1992. Kuwaiti imports from Jordan worth JD 11 million and exports to the Kingdom were JD 25 million in the first seven months of 1990 before the Iraqi invasion);

— Bahrain: JD 11.4 million and JD 14 million (JD 2.9 million and JD 7.9 million in 1992);

— Qatar: JD 3.2 million and JD 9.9 million (JD 5.05 million and JD 8.35 million in 1992);

— The UAE: JD 6.03 million and JD 30 million (JD 5.95 million and JD 26 million in 1992).

Jordan's imports from the European Union (EU) countries totalled JD 753 million in 1993 compared with JD 650 million in 1992. The Kingdom's exports to the EU countries during the year were worth JD 28 million compared with JD 19 million in 1992.

Eastern European countries increased their exports to Jordan by JD 22 million to JD 151 million in 1993 and imported Jordanian products worth JD 32 million (JD 15.7 million in 1992). Romanian exports to the Kingdom were worth JD 28 million and imports JD 3 million, while Russian exports stood at JD 33 million and imports JD 25 million (JD 1.3 million in 1992).

Japan was another major exporter to Jordan in 1993 accounting for JD 123 million in sales to the Kingdom and JD 9.83 million in purchases (JD 132 million and JD 12 million in 1992).

Chinese exports to Jordan in 1993 were worth JD 50 million (JD 52 million in 1992) and imports from the Kingdom JD 16.47 million (JD 14 million in 1992).

Police search for four assailants

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police are searching for four men who allegedly assaulted a 24-year-old male on Tuesday in Amman, according to a police report.

The victim, identified only as T.M.A., told police that he was sitting in his garden when a white Mercedes approached his house with four men inside.

The report said that one of the four men asked T.M.A. to ride with them. The victim accepted because he said he knew one of the passengers. The suspects drove to Hizam Da'eri Street and parked in a deserted area.

According to the report, the suspects stepped out of the vehicle and asked T.M.A. to step down. When he did, all four men started beating the victim, then one stabbed him with a switchblade, said the report.

Before fleeing the scene, one suspect drew a gun and shot at the victim several times but missed him, the report said.

The victim was taken to Al Bashir Hospital where attending doctors said he was listed in fair condition.

Police reports said the motive for the attack was revenge, adding that the attackers believed that T.M.A. was tipping-off police about their activities.

Police said they are investigating the incident.

Injured man in coma

Also on Thursday, a 29-year-old man was seriously injured in Karak after falling from the scaffolding of a building, police reports said.

The report said that Nasser H. Nasser was painting the exterior of the building when one of the ropes of the scaffolding broke.

The man was rushed to Karak Military Hospital where he is said to be in a coma due to a fractured skull.

House approves supply committee report

Deputies urge measures against supply sector corruption

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday approved its Supply Committee's report on the Kingdom's supply policy, but not before levelling sharp criticism against the committee's failure to refer to and recommend measures against related corruption.

Several deputies said that the committee should have dealt with the corruption by taking measures against parties found suspected of manipulation, illegal trading and profiteering in or from the supply sector's operations.

The committee's report included no reference to the supply ministry's earlier announcement that it had referred the files of suspected violators of the law to the prosecutor general, said other deputies.

On the other hand, the

majority of deputies praised the ministry's for providing basic commodities at reasonable prices.

Several deputies demanded that the government take drastic measures against merchants who violate supply regulations and intensify surveillance of the market to ensure the regulations are followed and the set prices are applied.

Some deputies also demanded that the government conduct an annual revision of fuel and oil product prices, adjusting them to run on par with world prices.

They added it was unreasonable for the government to raise fuel prices when oil products prices continue to decline on the international market.

Some deputies demanded that basic food commodities continue to be subsidised and that the Ministry of Supply

retain the privilege of importing strategic and basic food supplies.

In reply, Minister of Supply Radi Ibrahim said the ministry has adopted a policy to ensure sufficient reserves of food supplies and has built grain silos with stocks sufficing the country for at least four months.

It is not in the interest of the ministry to have the public complaining about the quality of food supplies and therefore supply officials are intent on maintaining control of the supplies in the local markets, said Mr. Ibrahim.

He said the ministry has assigned several committees to inspect the goods in the country of origin before shipment to Jordan, adding that nothing reaches the market before it is cleared by the Ministry of Health laboratories.

At the outset of the meeting,

the House referred to its Finance Committee a draft law on the Jordanian Investment Corporation for 1994 which was returned to the House by the Senate.

The House had introduced an amendment to Article 8 of the draft law, but the Senate turned the amendment down demanding that the draft law be passed in the form originally submitted by the government to the House.

The main focus of Article 8 concerned the classification of the corporation's employees. The second paragraph of the article, which stipulated that the employees of the pension fund be moved to the corporation and be included in the civil service system after the law has been enacted, was the major point of controversy at a session which took place on May 15.

Muta to restore King Abdullah Palace in Ma'an

MUTA (Petra) — Muta University will soon begin the first phase of a restoration project designed to convert the King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein's Palace in Ma'an into a national historical museum, according to Muta University President Abdul Rahman Attiyat.

The grand floor of the two-storey palace, dating back to the early 20th century, will house the museum which will include documents, photographs and the furnishings of the late King's office, said Dr. Attiyat.

The president was speaking following the signing of a contract with a local engineering office for the 10-month restoration project.

Muta University had set up a national committee to transform the palace into an historical and cultural centre featuring

ing Jordan's history in recognition and in memory of the King Abdullah founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, added Dr. Attiyat.

He said that the museum would also serve as a memorial centre for the companions of the late King who helped the Hashemites in the Great Arab Revolt against foreign domination, adding that historic decisions were taken at this site.

According to Dr. Attiyat the committee estimated that the first phase of the restoration would cost JD 250,000 which is to be raised through donations from various organisations including government ministries and major companies such as the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and the Arab Potash Company as well as the Royal Court and the Al Al Bayt Foundation.



The 1994 second volume of papers and documents of the late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein (Petra photo)

A theatre looks south-east

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Director Roberto Ciulli, a man with 30 years experience in theatre, more than 40 productions and participation in more than 22 festivals, was a guest of the capital at the invitation of the Goethe Institut to explore the possibility of future cooperation.

Born in Italy but living in Germany, which he "loves," Mr. Ciulli is one of the founders of the Theatre an der Ruhr, in the industrial town of Muelheim, on the banks of the river whose name it bears.

The creed of the producer is that the theatre should stir feelings in people, elicit responses, enrich them and have therapeutic properties while being at all times "connected" with the people and, most of all, fully independent.

"The goal (of this theatre) is to accomplish the continuity of an artistic and aesthetic

obligation towards the theatre arts — a task that cannot be handled by the highly subsidised state and city theatres," reads a leaflet that describes the theatre.

As he believes that "cultural exchange is important for development and mutually beneficial," Mr. Ciulli is touring the region in order to "know its cultural life, keep in continuous touch with it and be, perhaps, guests in the future."

"My theatre is not for German-speaking people only. The theatre should build relationships. I am here to study the possibilities — technical and otherwise — to come here and to see if you could come to Germany," he said at a press conference held at the Goethe Institut.

Productions of the theatre on the Ruhr include Woody Allen's "God" (1981), still running. Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (first put on stage in 1982/83), Botho Strauss's "Great and Little" and Jean Paul Sartre's



Roberto Ciulli

"Dead Without Burial" (1987/88).

"Our theatre moves towards south-east not towards north-west," said Mr. Ciulli, and proof of that is the close cooperation it keeps with the National Theatre of Turkey where the Ruhr theatre has performed yearly since 1978.

An ambassador of his theatre, as he likes to call himself, Mr. Ciulli said he would want to keep continuous contact with people

in the region through seminars, plays, exchange of artists and workshops.

"In Europe too, people want to know about non-European theatre, about art and culture," he said, stressing at the same time that theatre is a "universal language, as happiness, sadness, life, aggression, love are the same for all, and theatre is above any language barrier."

A theatre that draws inspiration from the daily life of the people, the Ruhr company also believes that an actor is not an interpreter but a creator.

And to stress his point, Mr. Ciulli quotes Federico Garcia Lorca who said that every people gets the theatre it deserves. It should give food for thought to our theatrical productions and actors and help make them better.

Mr. Ciulli, who came from Egypt to Jordan, is now in Syria for the same purpose of "knowing the region and the people and see prospects of future collaboration."

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

FIELD TRIP

★ Field trip to Petra. Departure will be by bus from the Amra Hotel parking lot on Friday at 7:30 a.m.

PIANO RECITAL

★ Piano recital at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

FLIGHT FOR LIFE ACTIVITIES

★ Fund-raising Dinner: for the Cancer Research Campaign, sponsored by Royal Jordanian at the Inter-Continental Hotel, Thursday at 8:30 p.m., tickets JD 20.
★ Open Day Flying: with the microlight team of world champions and the Royal Jordanian Gliding Club, on Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tickets JD 5.
★ Oud Recital: by Munir Bashir at the Royal Cultural Centre, Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Tickets JD 5.
★ Proceeds will go to support the work of the Cancer Research Campaign.

For information call Royal Jordanian Gliding Club 891401 (253) or Friends of Archaeology 696882.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Painting exhibition by Jordanian artist Abdul Ra'uf Sham'un at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Ameri entitled "Body" at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Fatima El-Helu at Goethe-Institut.
- ★ Ceramics exhibition by artist Huda Qassem at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition of Chinese paintings at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman.
- ★ Photography exhibit entitled "Faces of Jordan" at the American Center.
- ★ Exhibition by artist Isam Tantawi at Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis (Tel. 720677).
- ★ Exhibition by artist Abeer Bawab at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Jordan celebrates new Hijri year

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan along with the Arab and Islamic worlds will today celebrate the new Hijri (Islamic) year 1415. The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs will organise a major religious celebration on Saturday to mark the occasion. Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi and other prominent personalities will address the worshippers.

Youth forum to hold conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Youth Forum will on June 15 and 16 hold its third annual conference at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman. Several working papers dealing with Arab unity and democracy in the Arab World will be discussed at the opening sessions, which will be chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Jordan Times

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Stone to build on

THE JUST-CONCLUDED meetings of the U.S.-Jordanian-Israeli Trilateral Committee have indeed broken new ground in the Israeli-Jordanian track, partly because of the significant movement that has been registered, but also because of the critical hiatus in the peace talks over the past few months. The stalemate that ensued after last year's signing of the agenda agreement nearly dashed hopes for an early conclusion of any new breakthroughs between the two countries, even though it brought realism to the search for peace among all negotiating parties.

Jordan wanted all along to deal with first things first. We could never accept to take part in drawing up a grand scheme for the region without basic concerns such as border demarcation and water are dealt with in a satisfactory way. Jordan also sought to wait till the Palestinians and the Syrians have made tangible progress in their negotiations with Israel before agreeing to pick up where we had left in keeping with our commitment to seek a comprehensive settlement and lasting peace. True, the positive outcome of the two-day Washington meetings has been a result of give and take by both sides, but it essentially reflects a changed attitude on the part of Israel. The scope of the mutual issues that were discussed comprised the very concerns that Jordan had insisted on negotiating successfully before it could be prepared to go any further. It was never acceptable for Jordan to put the cart before the horse and the outcome of the economic committee's deliberations vindicates Amman's perspective on how the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks should be conducted. It has been obvious from the start that Jordan could in no way discuss future economic projects with the Israelis before they agreed to demarcate common borders and address our legitimate security concerns.

But even with the promising agreements in Washington, the two sides have a lot to do in order to put flesh on the skeleton that was assembled over the past few days. It must be understood that the tone of the results of the trilateral committee is more substantive than the factual contents of the accords. In actual terms, both parties only agreed to agree on what is to be done in several fields including trade, banking, finance, water, tourism, highway networks, refugees, security, environment and border issues. So, Jordan and Israel simply agreed to begin work on a framework for the future on all such subjects but has not done so yet.

Still the futuristic vision of the agreements cannot be regarded except as real progress since they laid the foundation for the conclusion of a negotiated settlement of all outstanding issues separating the two sides and bring the area closer to comprehensive peace.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily said Wednesday that Jordan's quest to secure its national interests is justified in view of the lack of coordination among Arab parties and the Kingdom determination not to be left behind in the peace talks. Commenting on the start of the Jordanian-Israeli-American talks in Washington, Tareq Masarweh said that Jordan opted for such move after the Palestinians had conducted separate talks in Oslo, Paris and Cairo with Israel and declined to let Jordan in on the agreement reached with the Israeli leaders. He said the Palestinians have also failed to implement agreements reached with Jordanian, and are showing fear of Jordanian hegemony over Palestinian affairs. Referring to the other parties, the writer said that Syria holds a stronger bargaining chip and is backed, together with Lebanon, by the Arab Gulf states. It should be noted, he said, that the countries of the "fertile crescent" which includes all these states have failed to ensure the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and also failed to reach a formula for collective negotiations with Israel that would ensure all their rights.

The breach of the ceasefire in Yemen came as no surprise to any of the observers of the developments in the Yemeni conflict, said Al Dustour daily. The paper said that the United Nations bid to directly interfere in the situation was an unprecedented move on the part of the world organisation and unwelcome to the Sana'a government. What also complicated the problem, were the claims by both sides in the Yemen war that civilian and other targets were attacked, which misled the public opinion in Yemen. These claims and foreign interventions, said the paper, have no doubt led to the perpetuation of the war and the breach in the ceasefire, causing further tragedies to the embattled nation.

The View From Academia

Sermonising as an art

By Dr. Ahmad Majdoubet

APPARENTLY, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has recently issued a decree (presumably upon hearing complaints from many worshippers) requesting Friday imams to shorten their sermons. As a faithful mosque goer for quite a number of years, I believe that such a request, which no doubt aims to make more efficient and effective the performance of preachers, is generally speaking a step in the right direction, especially under the present circumstances. We say this even though we simultaneously understand that the competent imam himself, not the religious institution, is ultimately the best judge of the most fitting length of the sermon.

Predictably, the decree has been met with more criticism than approval on part of the imams. I have had the opportunity these past few days to speak with a number of them. Some feel that the decree is reasonable in spirit. One is supposed, they say, to be neither too brief nor too exhaustive and exhausting in treating a subject: the middle way is the best way. Others feel less comfortable, and even a bit angry. One said "the Friday sermon is perhaps the only weekly opportunity for a Muslim to hear something serious about his condition or his religion. Naturally, we ought to tell him as much as we possibly can." Another said "you cannot in 15 minutes say something substantial to people, and I believe they must be given something substantial." A third, representing the more extreme position (and this is the imam whose unnecessarily lengthy sermon I attended last Friday) argued that a long sermon is a must. "This is, after all Friday, and Friday is a day of worship not play. Unfortunately, people do not appreciate serious things. They are supposed to care and listen even if I speak for two hours. They must also know that I am a preacher, not an entertainer. Do they want me to sing and dance to make them care and listen."

In my opinion, one cannot say that a brief sermon is better than a long sermon, or vice versa. Theoretically, each has its own intrinsic, independent value. It is like asking in literature whether a lyric or a sonnet is better than an elaborate ode or an epic. Professionally speaking, the comparison is nonsensical to draw, for a good sonnet is as interesting and valuable as a good epic, otherwise why do we consider Shakespeare's sonnets as deep and profound as Homer's epics? In the final analysis, the question of length is determined by the idea one intends to convey, the occasion, and the individual ability of the preacher. On Friday, some topics can be expressed

beautifully in five minutes, others in 45. It is all relative.

The issue, however, is more complicated than this. At the heart of the matter of brevity/length of sermons is the more important question of distinction or excellence of performance. It seems to me that people become aware of time as a problem in the Friday service only when they feel unexcited or bored. Judging from the comments of people I have spoken to, both worshippers and imams, and from my own personal experience with a number of mosques in Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, and other smaller towns and villages in the Kingdom, the complaint revolves around the mediocrity of sermons or sermonising, not the amount of time. This is where the real problem lies.

Many Friday sermons these days suffer, among other things, from the following three basic shortcomings:

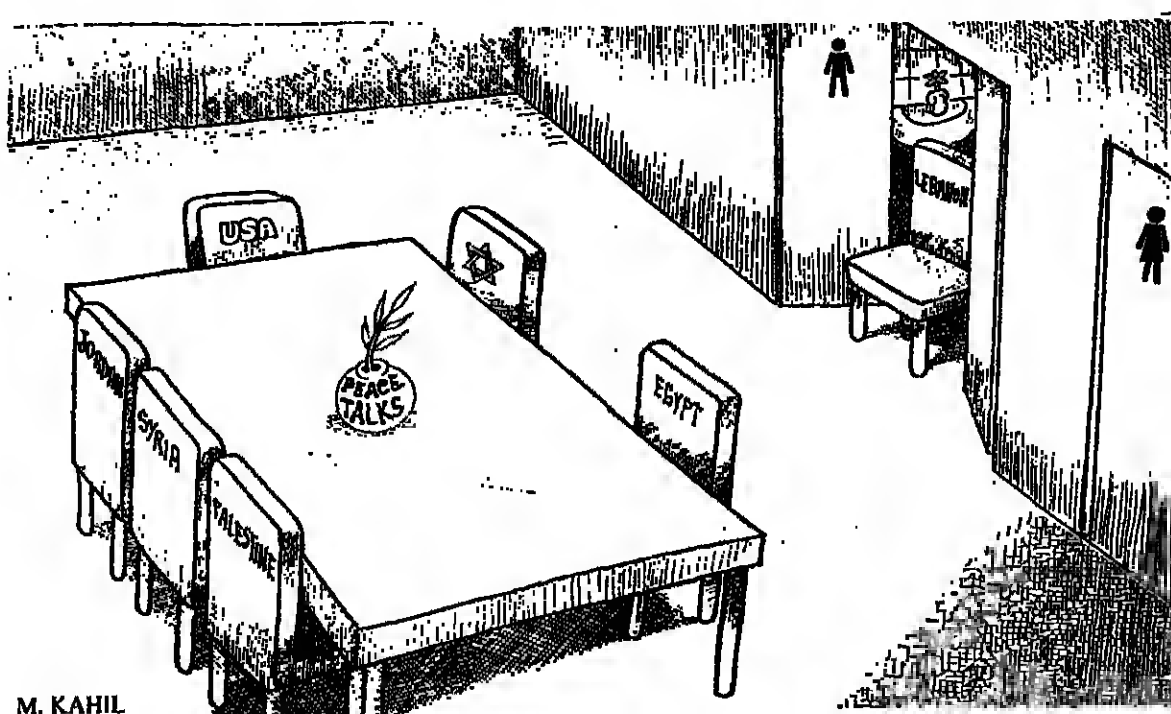
a) Some present nothing new to the audience, reshaping information which people already know. One person I spoke with hit the nail on the head: "I come to the mosque on Friday in order to learn, not go over material which I have mastered since preparatory school." This point is significant. Many preachers greatly underestimate the audience's knowledge of the theology. We have to remember that through parents, peers, neighbours, school and the mass media, we learn a whole lot about religion. The sermon, therefore, ought either to bring something new or look at the things we know from a new angle. This is a challenge which imams have to face in today's world.

b) Many sermons lack a centre or a point of focus. A good sermon, like a good piece of rhetoric or writing, is supposed to concentrate on one main idea and develop it well. These days most sermons ramble and jump from one point to another without much sense of coherence. One worshipper informed me: "I feel every Friday that the imam is trying to explain the whole of religion in 30 minutes. Why does he not take one or two points?" It is noteworthy in this context that most preaching I have witnessed this past decade is conducted impromptu. Of course, there is nothing wrong with an eloquent, charismatic imam to stand up and speak spontaneously, if he is able and competent enough. However, most preaching I have heard strikes me as incoherent, unfocused, repetitious, and unexciting because the imam has not spent enough time preparing. Speak impromptu, but prepare before you speak.

c) There is a lack of deep analysis in many sermons. We must remind here that our audience is generally an educated audience. Most people who come to attend the Friday service have at least the tawjih certificate or a college diploma, if not a B.A. We cannot address them the way we address my illiterate grandmother. I would say that the Friday audiences of the 1980s and 90s are, quantitatively and qualitatively, remarkably different from those of the 70s and 60s. A sermon has to reflect such change; it has also to try to accommodate it, to embrace it, and work with it, not suppress it or deny it. It is a positive asset for the imam to have an intelligent audience, more demanding than that of the previous generations. But it is also a challenge, to live up to which, he has to work harder.

The task of an imam is not an easy task. In my opinion, it is as sensitive and difficult (if not much more) as that of a teacher. A good preacher — like a good teacher — not only has to come to the service fully prepared, thoroughly organised and coherent (whether he intends to speak or read), and entirely mentally alert, but he must also be equally interesting. This point is important to underscore here. A successful preacher, like a successful teacher, cannot say that it is not his job to capture the attention of the audience. The Friday worshippers are, like students, human beings who get bored and excited. For the most part, stimulation must be provided by the speaker (preacher or teacher) — sometimes it comes from within the audience themselves (worshippers or students), but this is rare, and it happens only to the few and occasionally. Stimulation is not only intellectual, but it is also psychological. Thus the challenge for the imam here is double: He has to challenge the mind of the listener and capture his heart. Obviously, some imams, like some teachers, are born, not made. Every time they speak, they are profound and interesting. With these, there is no problem, even if they speak for two hours. With the other imams and these are a comfortable majority today, stimulation comes by training and practice. They have to work hard to be exciting and captivating. For this reason, and this is probably what the Ministry of Awqaf has in mind, they better begin with brief sermons; a shorter sermon is certainly more manageable.

We have, I am sure, many able and impressive Friday preachers. But many who are not so able and impressive can be made so if they take the art of sermonising (not just the content) a little more into account, if not for themselves at least for their ever faithful and respectful audience.



M. KAHIL

Yeltsin enemies rally for power

By Ralph Boulton
Reuters

MOSCOW — They rally behind banners of varying colours, some working in Russia's parliament, others on the streets, at the factory gates or in the barracks rooms.

They have one common goal — the removal of President Boris Yeltsin, if possible before the next winter is out.

Rival militant opposition parties have proclaimed a tactical truce and, tacitly at least, accepted former vice-president Alexander Rutskoi as provisional leader. The alliance, however, is fraught with political and personal jealousies.

"Today I see no leader in the opposition movement I could have faith in and step down for," Mr. Rutskoi said recently.

Mr. Rutskoi, jailed for five months after October's failed uprising, was entrusted by a meeting of some 20 groups to organise a national assembly for later this year that would appoint an "opposition government" ready to assume power.

As things stand, Mr. Yeltsin could stay in power until mid-1996, when fresh presidential elections are due. His enemies want to force the pace, perhaps exploiting economic disruption, strikes and political turmoil to secure early polls.

The accord for Russia alliance includes Mr. Rutskoi's small Social Democratic People's Party and the mainstream Communist Party — a force on both sides of the parliamentary threshold.

The general flavour of its conference was venomous.

Nationalist Stanislav Govorukhin railed against Western "Pepsi Cola culture" and what he called the impoverishment of Russians. Others spoke of rampant crime and corruption.

Mr. Rutskoi, for his part, sought common ground with writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn, saying the recently re-

turned exile shared the values of the "spiritual-patriotic opposition."

The presence of former centrist "lost souls" such as Vasily Lipitsky and Alexander Tsipko on the platform was taken to broaden its appeal as a vigorous but law-abiding opposition.

Firmly beyond the pale, however, remain such firebrands as nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, strongest party at December elections, and Communist rabble-rouser Viktor Anpilov. Neither would take easily to the core discipline Mr. Rutskoi seeks.

"In October we paid in blood for our lack of organisation and unity... We must not repeat this mistake," Mr. Rutskoi said.

Behind the scenes, however, individual alliance figures maintain links with the darker depths of Russia's opposition, allowing for any dramatic turn in a troubled country.

"We're building a system of channels, keeping contacts open between groups unable to co-exist directly," said Alexander Prokhanov, editor of the militant newspaper Zavtra (Tomorrow).

"For instance, have good relations with Zhirinovskiy and... Barkashov as well as other (more centrist) politicians," he said. "A complex hierarchy is emerging and it can work."

Alexander Barkashov leads the Russian National Unity Party, whose black-shirted fighters paraded at the beleaguered White House last autumn after Mr. Yeltsin set aside the constitution and banished the old parliament.

"Yes, I'm a Nazi," he said in a newspaper interview. "And what's wrong with that? Nazi means two things — nationalist and Socialist, the revival of our nation and of social justice."

Mr. Anpilov head of the working Russia grouping, was jailed with Mr. Rutskoi after the October uprising.

While Mr. Rutskoi walked to freedom silently, Mr. Anpilov, true to style, marched through the prison gates howling into the megaphone that is his constant companion at factory and street rallies.

His aim is a return to Soviet power. Indeed, practically all militant groups want the restoration of the Soviet Union in some form or another and a return to state economic controls.

"We're not hurrying into any coalitions," said Mr. Anpilov, a man hailed by his followers as the "Russian Che Guevara."

Mr. Prokhanov is not discouraged. "Anpilov has his role, too, if the time is right. He is the man of the mutiny, the uprising."

Mainstream Communist chief Gennady Zyuganov has little love for Mr. Anpilov and must have doubts about Mr. Rutskoi's impatience.

Mr. Zyuganov, encouraged by Socialist successes in East Europe, fears his electoral hopes could be damaged by the radicalism of Mr. Anpilov who, like Mr. Rutskoi, has no place in parliament.

Mr. Prokhanov says Anatoly Lukyanov, erstwhile Communist chairman of the old Soviet parliament and independent deputy in the new Duma, keeps channels open between the two Communists.

Mr. Lukyanov also shared a platform with Mr. Zhirinovskiy, raucous proponent of a Russian empire, at a recent pan-Slav congress.

"I'm keeping all contacts open," Mr. Lukyanov says. But like Mr. Zyuganov he views Mr. Zhirinovskiy, a signatory of Mr. Yeltsin's Social Peace Contract, with suspicion.

Mr. Zhirinovskiy cares little. He rests, alone, on December's electoral success while trawling for other openings to power.

During a visit to a paratrooper base in Ryazan,

southeast of Moscow, this correspondent saw only three newspapers lying in an operations room — the defence ministry daily Krasnaya Zvezda, the Communist Pravda and Mr. Zhirinovskiy's journal, Liberal.

"There are political forces hankering on army support... To take power," said Krasnaya Zvezda commentator Alexander Golts.

"But I'm convinced the army just doesn't want to get involved."

On opponents, then, overcome suspicions and unite?

"If things get really bad — and I mean really bad — then yes," said economist Grigory Yavlinsky, liberal leader of the Yabloko Duma bloc. "But if they remain so-so, then no."

Industrial production has fallen steeply this year, the autumn could bring a cyclical increase in inflation and large-scale unemployment is a growing danger. A wholesale economic collapse is not, however, something the opposition can count on.

Militants might eye more dramatic developments some 1,500 km from the golden domes of the Kremlin.

"Crimea is very dangerous," said Mr. Yavlinsky. "If anything happens there, it could unleash an explosion of chauvinism... That could completely change the political landscape."

Conflict in Crimea over the peninsula's attempts to loosen ties with Ukraine and realign with Russia could indeed open a political " Pandora's box" in Moscow. Both Mr. Yeltsin and his Ukrainian counterpart Leonid Kravchuk realise the dangers.

Initially galled by Mr. Rutskoi's release from prison under a parliamentary amnesty, Mr. Yeltsin has since made little comment on militant opponents. Unless his enemies rally to effective action, he is unlikely to break that silence.

LETTERS

Murder is not the answer

To the Editor:

IT SADDENS me to say that the rise in the atrocious crimes that are constantly being committed under the name of "honour" or "passion" are not a novelty in our part of the world. "Victim of incestuous rape killed by second brother," (Jordan Times, June 1). However, the fact that a brother stabs his 16-year-old sister to death in order to "cleanse the family honour" after she had been raped by another brother can only be described as hideous and absolutely monstrous, to say the very least.

I believe it was around a month ago that the Jordan Times reported another similar crime where a young man had received an anonymous letter indicating that his 15-year-old sister had been "up to no good". Upon his father's instructions and foregoing further investigation or verification, he deemed it fit to take justice into his own hands and "cleansed the family honour", by shooting his young sister to death.

It takes two people to commit adultery — a woman and a man. Why is it always the woman who is regarded as the responsible party and, as a consequence in most cases murdered? If we want to be fair (within this law of the jungle), then both should be held equally responsible and face the same consequence.

Everywhere in the world, when someone is deliberately killed, it is considered murder. Disguising murder under the name of "crime of passion/honour" is a crime in itself. No one has the right to kill anyone under any pretence. Murder is murder and I believe all cases should be dealt with equally.

These so-called "honourable and brave men" would definitely — and for selfish reasons — think twice before killing a female sibling if they knew that as a result they would be locked behind bars for 10 or 20 years.

I respect our society's culture, I am proud of our many customs, and I fervently believe a woman should respect herself and the honour of her family. However, I am sure there can be other ways for reproaching a "human being" for a fault committed without resorting to murder.

Allow me to make a hypothetical question: If there were four sisters and one brother in a family all four sisters committed "wrong-doings" at intermittent intervals. Would the only "honourable" thing for the brother to do is kill all four of his sisters? Could it not be that (a) there might be a discrepancy with the parents' upbringing of these girls? (b) One of them was possibly being pestered by a man and had nothing to do with him? (c) One of them might have refused to marry someone and as a result he and his family, feeling insulted, started some very malicious gossip? I could go on and on, but what it all boils down to is that murder is not the answer.

In conclusion, I seriously hope these men are made to pay for their atrocious crimes.

Fatima Ahmad,
Amman.

A blow to tourism?

To the Editor:

I READ with great interest the report in your newspaper that virtually all hotels in Aqaba have been downgraded.

I am at a total loss to understand what this achieves. Over the years, we have sent lots of tourists to Aqaba, with only a few complaints. On the rare occasion when this happened, we found a direct approach to the owner met with instant response. Considering the problems they faced we find hotels in Aqaba offer excellent value for money for what they offer.

That is not to say there cannot be improvements, but often this is a reflection on matters out of the control of the hoteliers.

The biggest single problem in promoting Aqaba is the lack of a stable same day service directly from the major capitals of Europe.

Even without consulting the hoteliers, I can but say the reclassification will be a severe blow to their morale. Is this really a way to encourage them?

In Europe, a two star hotel is virtually a pension, whilst three stars for the Holiday International is just ridiculous — bringing no credit to Jordan's overall standing in tourism. May I respectfully request the Minister of Tourism to reconsider this measure, before too much damage is done to Aqaba's reputation as Jordan's premier resort?

Of course, experts in travel to Jordan know what they are selling. We don't oversell hotels, which is why complaints are few and far between.

James Smith,
Managing Director,
Jasmin Tours Ltd,
England.

Jerash Festival — a unique affair this year

By Mohammad Mashariqah

This year's Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts is expected to be different from previous events and unique in some way, not only because the highway to the Greco-Roman city has been opened but also due to its variety of cultural and artistic activities which are bound to place the Jerash Festival on the list of world prestigious festivals.

The coming event this summer is therefore expected to give Jordan a distinguished cultural dimension characterised by openness to and integrated with the other world cultures and arts.

I believe that the elements that advocate bigotry, fanaticism and retrogression would not have their way of marginalising the festival and confining it to local folklore.

The festival's higher committee is going ahead with plans to involve different troupes in the event, and give the festival a true international taste and a real cultural and artistic identity.

To achieve this objective the committee has invited a variety of troupes representing different cultures from various parts of the world.

But perhaps the idea of setting a special forum for creative work in one of the Jerash theatres this year is the most significant event which, if successful, could become an annual tradition through which various shades of music, paintings, theatre and poetry can be presented.

This year's event will be non-traditional as the audiences will enjoy background music while watching Jordanian artists presenting their work in the open air or hearing poetry recitals.

Music programmes will come as a pleasant surprise for the audience who will taste the works of the best

Jordanian music composers, including Yousef Khasho, composer of one of the world's best known symphonies. A group of five young musicians will treat the audience to a taste of traditional music in a new distribution of modern instruments.

The audience will acquaint themselves with three generations of Jordanian musicians hitherto unknown to the cultural and artistic community and the media in Jordan.

My personal experiment in helping to organise this year's event has opened my eyes to a number of facts:

1- That Jordan abounds with creative artists of high quality, open to world culture — artists who have presented some of their works in Arab and European capitals with much applause and wonder. This group of artists regrettably remains unknown to the Jordanian society and believes their work has not been given a chance by such institutions like the Noor Al Hussein Foundation or the National Music Conservatory which normally deals only with foreign musical groups spending lavishly on their accommodation in Jordan.

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

2- That the festival's managing committee has done its best to get together most of the gifted artists and intellectuals for this important event. But it should be noted that this is not enough to project talents; and the Ministry of Culture ought to organise other festivals to present various types of music, or organise special festivals for story-reading or theatre. It is hoped that the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHFF) would follow such an example and organise annual programmes for creative and gifted people.

3- That upgrading culture and art works in Jordan requires sufficient funds and the state should shoulder a

major responsibility in this respect, thus facilitating the emergence of high-quality and serious artistic work which require huge funds.

Through my contacts with the Jordanian theatre groups, I have discovered that some actors live in poverty and some of them have to work as green grocers or in factories in order to earn a living.

The concerned authorities should give serious consideration to these facts and help the actors and the artists who can best reflect the country's cultural image to the outside world.

The government could copy the successful experiments in this regard achieved by Arab and foreign countries which adopted systems that ensured decent income to the artists.

For example, in Morocco, municipalities started funding theatre groups' work and artists' activities, and also allocated annual budgets for creative work and for ensuring a decent living for artists.

Another example is that of Egypt which has adopted what came to be known as the "hangars theatres" where state-funded plays are presented.

4- That non-Jordanian cultural centres operating in the Kingdom have made important cultural contributions and opened the way for a good number of Jordanian artists to present their paintings and other works. They have helped to acquaint Jordanians with their artists' works and world art.

However, one can safely conclude that real progress in this field requires from the foreign cultural centres to sponsor theatre and music groups, something which has been done in Tunisia and Egypt.

The Jordanian intellectuals and artists have matured enough to look forward to a real interaction with foreign culture and genuine cultural cooperation in creative work for the benefit of mankind.

BOOK REVIEW

Personal odyssey

A Cloud Of Forgetting
By Pamela Cooper
Quartet, London 1993, £19.95

In her biography Pamela Cooper, the former Viscountess Ruthven and the founder of Medical Aid for Palestine, retraces her life from her memories of being a child of a Protestant rector in Ireland at the beginning of the century to watching the everyday life of "another little girl, a very small girl indeed... carrying a petrol can of water to her family in a high corner building" in West Beirut during Israel's siege of the city in the summer of 1982. Despite the contradictions between her privileged childhood and that of the children of Beirut, she reflects that neither of them "escaped the despair and rubble of a century whose conflicts show no sign of abating."

Pamela's years as a child and young woman were indeed privileged. She recalls these years enlivened by parties, hunts and balls in the large and once sumptuous mansions of the Anglo-Irish aristocracy; names, double and even triple-barrelled, bounce back off the flagstones of the entrance halls. Pamela's life was fun and she recalls it with verve.

In 1935, "benefiting from those brief years of peace when only the rich and privileged travelled for pleasure," Pamela accompanied her godmother, the daughter of a tobacco magnate, in a "gloriously luxurious adventure" organised by Thomas Cook: a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Crossing Turkey by way of the Taurus Mountains, she reached Aleppo where she had her "first true view of the East". She went on to Beirut, "the second Paris", and wandered through the flowers on the Lebanese mountainside. She continued her journey to Damascus, "a very French city with the plump provincial madames of the French forces drifting around in open carriages" and arrived in Palestine, "which seemed a biblical land with terraces of ancient olive trees and peasants tilling the soil as in Jesus' day".

In the summer of 1939, after her marriage to Viscount Patrick Hore-Ruthven, son of the future Earl of Gowrie, she moved to Palestine where her husband's cavalry unit was stationed. The following year, she went on to Cairo where she worked at General Wavell's headquarters, assigned to an intelligence branch which handed out situation reports to the press. There she joined Freya Stark in founding the "Brotherhood of Freedom", first in Cairo and then in Baghdad in the summer of 1941.

Back in Ireland, where her second son, Malise, was born, she learnt of her husband's death in North Africa. She spent the years of her long widowhood filtering the lessons of her experience in the Middle East and reflecting on the world's political map shaped after two world wars. She writes of "the company of invaders and settlers who were plundering lands not rightfully theirs, then setting up armies of occupation, erasing sacred landmarks, retaining the profits of annexation in the name of progress and the defence of the world's resources. Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin each playing the old old game in his own way, leaving a deep distrust which is never erased." "In the Middle East," she writes, "we had fought over the land, motives disguised in the cause of democracy, Western values and in the case of Palestine, quoting dubious stories from the Old Testament."

She embarked on a new odyssey in the region, which was to strengthen her relationship with this part of the world, after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. This time she was accompanying her second husband, Major Derek Cooper, "whose passionate and chivalrous sense of the injustice done to the Palestinians sprang at first from everything he saw as a young officer serving in Palestine at the end of the Mandate". With him she shared the outrage towards a world which showed "as the turbulent century continued, little sign of knowing or wanting to know about Palestinian refugees living in camps for generations."

In 1960-61, they worked with the Save the Children Fund providing food, shelter and medical aid for the tribes of south Jordan. The following year they were in Iran helping the Red Cross with earthquake victims.

But their experiences of the summer of 1982 in West Beirut added wider scope to their humanitarian campaign. There she and Derek worked side by side with the "Christians and Muslims, the Lebanese and the Palestinians who have woven so strongly those bands of mutual trust and the fabric of social welfare and service through their sufferings". The author becomes one with the city; a sense of belonging emerges, along with "the smelly streets, the burning refuse, the rats and broken sewers and those gallant children, daily carrying water containers beyond their strength down the streets and up the stairs to their mothers and grandmothers."

The siege of West Beirut was a source of inspiration that carried their "dream of a better world" into the realm of feasibility. Back in London, Pamela and Derek Cooper founded their own aid agency with young Palestinian doctors — Medical Aid for Palestine, a British-registered charity dedicated to the medical and humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people. Among others, it sent Pauline Cutting, Sue Chai Ang and Sue Whitton to the besieged Palestinian camps in Lebanon in 1987 and later to Gaza and the West Bank.

Pamela Cooper is today among "those who were privileged to help someone else's crisis and who learned the most important lessons". Her story is a moving testament of a most remarkable person — Middle East International.

Mai Makarem Hamady

Australian heroine played crucial role in D-Day

By Stephen Skinner
Reuters

SYDNEY — Sitting in the modest flat in the Australian tourist town of Port Macquarie, offering tea to visitors, 81-year old Nancy Wake doesn't look like the woman General Dwight Eisenhower said was worth five army divisions.

The hearty laugh and sparkling eyes also give little hint of the crucial role played by Ms. Wake, one of the most decorated women of World War II, in the allied liberation of Europe.

Ms. Wake parachuted into France in February 1944 with a list of Nazi targets such as rail and telephone lines which were blown up by the French resistance in support of D-Day operations.

The only woman among the 7,000 strong force of the Maquis d'Auvergne, Ms. Wake did her fair share of fighting, as well as organising air drops of arms and supplies via coded radio messages, and arranging for the vital goods to be retrieved.

Ms. Wake's bravery, skill, loyalty, good humour and love of a party were legendary in the French resistance.

"Half the people think you go to war and never laugh," Ms. Wake said. "Good gracious me, you can always have a laugh. We were making the best of a bad job and keeping our spirits up. You can't go around being mournful all the time."

Her courage was exemplified by a midday attack on the German headquarters at Montlucon, recounted in her autobiography *White Mouse* — the name given the elusive Australian by the Gestapo.

"I entered the building by the back door, raced up the stairs, opened the first door along the passage way and threw in my grenades, closed the door and ran like hell back to my car which was ready to make a quick getaway," she said.

"The headquarters was completely wrecked inside the building, and several dozen Germans did not lunch that day, nor any other day for that matter."

Other exploits included shooting her way out of road blocks, joining in ambushes of Nazi convoys, and blowing up bridges.

Such deeds earned Ms. Wake a swag of decorations, including Britain's George Medal, the French Resistance Medal and Officer of the Legion Of Honour and the Medal Of Freedom with Bronze Palm from the United States.

The medals were recently auctioned to the Returned Services League for more than Australian dollars 150,000 (\$110,000).

Ms. Wake — who once received a letter addressed simply to "the bravest woman in Australia" —

said she had no children to give the medals to, they were too heavy to wear, and she wouldn't need them "where I'm going."

Ms. Wake worked as a nurse before leaving Australia for Europe at aged 20, explaining that she wanted to put a "couple of oceans" between herself and her strict mother.

"I had a bellyful of church," Ms. Wake says. "I'm not against church but I'm against being bored."

Ms. Wake was a young journalist enjoying the good life in France with her first husband, a wealthy French businessman, before the Nazis shattered life in Europe.

After playing a crucial role in the network which helped allied servicemen escape the Nazis and acting as a resistance courier, Ms. Wake was forced to escape France over the Pyrenees to Spain when her cover appeared to have been blown.

She could not say goodbye to her husband, Henri Fiocca, who she never saw again. Ms. Wake learned while celebrating the August 1944 liberation of Paris with her resistance comrades that he had died at the hands of the Gestapo.

Making her way from Spain to England, Ms. Wake trained as a commando with the Special Operations Executive — the only woman on her course. After her triumphant return to

France and the end of the war, her work included writing the combat survival manual for the British Air Ministry.

Ms. Wake says her motivation was simple — disgust at the Nazi persecutions, which she had witnessed first-hand before the war in Germany and Austria.

"I made up my mind if ever I could do anything, I would do it," Ms. Wake said, adding that her contribution began with pouring sugar into the petrol tanks of German cars.

In *White Mouse*, Ms. Wake describes how she spent most of her time when organising the resistance groups near the end of the German occupation of France.

"If I wasn't walking or riding a bicycle, or fighting, or being chased by the Germans, or the Vichyites, it just wasn't a normal day," she wrote.

Ms. Wake says her proudest achievement during the war was cycling more than 500 kilometres in 72 hours, dodging Nazi troops all the way, to send a vital message to London.

Ms. Wake, who lives with her second husband in Port Macquarie, 250 kilometres north of Sydney, left Australia last week with a friend for the D-Day celebrations in England and France.

"We're going to have a ball — two old girls having a last fling," she said.



SOME LIVED TO TELL: United States Navy ensign Joseph Vaghi (centre) talks with residents of Normandy after the June 6, 1944 D-Day landings on the French coast during World War II. The photo was taken between Vieuxville - Sur-Mer and Colleville-Sur-Mer. Still alive today are Ms. Lemarquand (holding dollar bill) and Mr. Bernard Poree (lower left) (AFP photo)

Russian women pilots remember wartime heroics

By Juliet Butler
Reuters

MOSCOW — As the world's attention turned to ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of D-Day, a small group of women met in Moscow to remember the crucial role they played in the war against Germany.

When the allies launched the June 6, 1944 Normandy invasion, hundreds of young Russian women pilots had already been engaged in the enemy night and day in the treacherous skies of the Eastern Front for more than two years.

Soviet dictator Josef Stalin issued a decree in December 1941 creating three all-female air force regiments but the order was kept secret in case it boosted the Germans' morale.

But the women quickly proved so effective the Germans dubbed them the "night witches."

Katya Polunina, a 73-year-old former plane mechanic who now ekes out a living on her 50,000 ruble

(\$26) a month pension, said it was not really a job for women.

"When the pilots went into a dive they screamed in pain because the cockpits of their bombers weren't hermetically sealed," she said.

"Sometimes the blood capillaries in their temples burst. They would come back with red eyes and blood dribbling out of their ears. You don't get that from standing at a stove."

In 1942 Marina Raskova, whose task it was to form the dive-bomber, night-bomber and fighter units, called flying clubs all over the Soviet Union inviting female pilots to join her.

"It's scarcely believable that we flew across enemy lines in biplanes made of plywood. If you put a match to one it would go up like a torch," said night-bomber pilot Irina Rakobolskaya.

On bright nights the ungainly planes were sitting targets.

"My plane stood out

against the moon-lit clouds and I felt as though I was walking along the street without my dress on — everyone was looking and there was nowhere to hide," said Natasha Kravtsova.

"That's the worst moment, when you know they're just about to fire and you feel as though you've swallowed a frog and it's wriggling, slippery and cold in your stomach. You know that frog is terror."

The women bombers, who flew without parachutes and had only the most rudimentary of navigational aids, sometimes put in up to 12 missions a night in their fragile Polikarpov PO-2 biplanes. They were given special chocolate to stay awake.

The constant threat of death did not just come from the sky. After her ninth bombing mission one night, bomb-aimer Galya Dukotovich threw herself onto the grass for a quick

nap and was promptly run over by a petrol tanker which broke her back.

She defied doctors' order and returned to flying six months later but was later shot down and killed.

Some women died from typhus and tuberculosis. Teenager Tanya Yudina was shot dead by sniper fire as a group of pilots returned singing after bathing in a nearby stream.

They also had to deal with the initial contempt of their male colleagues. Serafima Amosova recalled jokes about "petticoat pilots" when they flew to help a Black Sea regiment.

And after they bombed the Nazi Headquarters in the southern Russian port of Novorossiisk they received a telegram from the sailors thanking their "night-time brothers."

Major Viktor Markov was mortified to find out he had been put in charge of the fighter regiment but grew to admire the women's

tenacity.

"Sometimes I would watch the girl mechanics struggling to fit heavy bombs to the planes and working through the night in a blizzard. Pilots would fly off into combat and I'd think: Just a minute, men should be doing this," he said.

By the end of the war some women had flown 1,000 missions. Yet Natasha Kravtsova recalled her shock on stumbling over the body of a German soldier lying in the snow in his underwear.

"It was the first time we had seen a dead German. Each one of us had been on hundreds of bombing raids, sowing death, but until then we did not know, nor wanted to know, what it looked like," she said.

Despite the hardships and pain of seeing close friends shot down — about a third of the pilots were killed during the war — the women still found ways to retain their femininity.

They altered their baggy male uniforms, embroidered forget-me-nots onto their foot bindings and held impromptu dances on the airstrip. Sometimes they went too far.

Two women who cut up parachute silk for underwear were sentenced to 10 years in a Siberian prison camp. One navigator caught running off to a nearby ammunition dump for a tryst with her lover was dismissed from the regiment on the spot.

But many of the survivors still consider the dark days of the war as some of the happiest in their lives.

"We would sit under a haystack during rare moments of relaxation and whisper intimate girl talk," recalled mechanic Zoya Malkova.

"Now we are wrinkled and grey but there is nothing stronger, nothing which can replace the friendships we forged during the war," she said.

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

"Tests are no more necessary to religion than patriotism to patriotism — John Haynes Holmes, American clergyman and reformer (1879-1964).

"The passion for setting people right is in itself an afflictive disease — Marianne Moore, American poet (1897-1972).

There is, I think, nothing in the world more futile than the attempt to find out how a task should be done when one has not yet decided what the task is — Alexander Meiklejohn, American educator (1872-1964).

Beautiful jargon

By Jean-Claude Elias

Every trade has its jargon. Physicians, engineers, journalists, lawyers and computer professionals, among others, tend to use a specialised vocabulary when discussing a topic which is particular to their work. A doctor would tell a colleague about the cephalgia of his patient but would inform the same patient that he's simply got a headache.

The lingo that is obscure to the non-initiated actually helps professionals understand themselves better, faster and in a more practical manner. A single term can replace a complete description, a concept while being often more accurate. The experts are therefore forgiven if they sometimes overdo it when they try to impress or lose the layman by exaggerating the density or the complexity of their parlance.

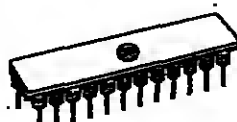
Technical fields like medicine and more particularly computer science not only make an extensive use of specialised technical terms but regularly add new ones to their dictionaries, this is because of the advancement they show.

The constant addition of new technical terms is a headache (or cephalgia should I say) for two kinds of mortals: Those in charge of finding a translation in their language of imported expressions and the bulk of the population who often does not have a clue about the meaning of these new additions.

Personal computers (PC) designers are introducing new idioms at the same speed the machines' characteristics and performance are being improved — virtually at the speed of light. Since most of the innovations come from English speaking countries, the language has become the reference for all users whether they are in Italy, Germany, France, Jordan, Guatemala, Singapore or Japan.

Finding a satisfactory equivalent for a technical word from one language to another and establishing it officially as a new standard that everybody has to use is a difficult, lengthy task. Most countries have set organisations for this purpose. Computer terminology is

chip talk



literally driving the specialised committees crazy. They are unable to catch up with the evolution. Tens of new English terms are added every few weeks.

Some very basic computer words, defined by ASMO (Arab Standardisation and Metrology Organisation) a few years ago, have only recently been accepted and widely used in their Arabic form. Computer is "has-soub", computerisation is "haoussaba" and programming is "barmaja". Let's not even mention the new terms. The situation is not much brighter for some European countries that must keep using the new, original English term for some time.

Because most of the novelties come as acronyms, a fact which tends to make the meaning even more confusing, PC users, whatever their own language, actually do not mind keeping the original form. Computer buffs in Jordan say RAM (Random Access Memory) when they talk about the memory of the machine, forgetting how the acronym was formed and what language it comes from.

If you are proud to know that a mouse, in PC jargon, is not a small animal beware not to confuse the machine's "local bus" with the vehicle that used to drive you to school in your home town. A "heat sink" is not what you think; it's a different thing. Finally, if you are familiar with terms like PCI, RISC, "pin cushion", "refresh rate", "lost clusters" or "fat dithering" and give an exact explanation of them, then you are either a real pro or deserve to be regarded as one.

Testing in general, Tawjihi in particular

By E. Yaghi

Testing plays an important role in teaching. It enables teachers and institutions of learning to determine whether they have achieved their goals and it also helps students see where they fit in with the rest of their colleagues. Tests are those prerequisites that pass students on from one year to the next and eventually determine who shall and who shall not be eligible to enter the university.

Students in the Arab World are bombarded with all sorts of tests, such as, school tests, classroom tests, written tests, and integrative tests, and last but not least, that horror of all horrors, the Tawjihi exam. But, let us stop and think. Have we placed too much emphasis on tests? Have we forgotten our main objectives? Have we ignored the most important aspect of education which is teaching knowledge and made our students feel that success in life depends on how good one is in memorising?

Alternatives to excessive testing can be less paper and pencil exams and more student progressive evaluations done by their respective teachers. This practice relieves the anxiety of constant testing as well as gives the teacher the chance to evaluate the progress of each individual student, for within one classroom of students, there are several levels for aptitudes of learning from the weak to the excellent and one test given to all is biased in the fact that weaker students are made to feel that they are stupid while those faster in learning feel superior. Teachers can keep files on each of their students and make regular assessments throughout the year on the progress of individuals. In this manner, the teacher is able to see what problems and difficulties each student is faced with and try to develop techniques to overcome them. By using this means, the mission of education can be accomplished which is to teach knowledge, not to torture young minds. With years of experience, teachers also find their silent observations of students to be indications of learning ability.

When and if tests are given, they must be valid in that they test what they ought to, they must be reliable in that they are given to more than one group to determine whether the same or similar results would occur, they must be authentic in that they measure what was instructed, and relevant in that they measure the desired objectives and they should never be either too difficult nor too easy. Further, tests should have clarity in that students are not puzzled about what the questions mean, the timing should be appropriate for the amount of material covered in the test and a good test should be practical in that it is easy to administer and score without wasting too much effort.

I am seriously against tests which are based on rote memory. These tests fool teachers and institutions of learning because students cram their minds with an abundance of irrelevant information that is discarded as soon as the exam is over. The result is that long-term acquisition of general knowledge is inadequate. The most important aim of education is to teach our young how to live in their world that we have made for them. Since we have made this world a nightmare of complex and puzzling impossibilities that they are forced to face, then we, more than anything, must teach them how to deal with the nightmares and hurdles we have placed in front of them. I am afraid that we are doing the opposite. We are stifling their imaginations and original thinking. We do not encourage them to think for themselves or be able to tell their teachers a simple statement as, "I think you are wrong," or, "I don't agree with you." What we have done is to place impossible-to-remember information in front of them and say, "here it all is. Memorise it and don't you dare ask any questions."

This brings us to the biggest nightmare of all, the Tawjihi exam. What is the purpose of such a test? I see no use for it except to do away with 50 per cent of those tested because for the simple reason, there is no place for them in universities. For one whole year, a student is forced to suffer, to be under constant strain from

himself or herself, not to mention parents, relatives and neighbours in order to get a grade that enables him or her to enter the university. Tragedy strikes if that student fails to get a mark that will let a university accept him. The trauma has been so great that rather than face the humiliation of failure, some students commit suicide every year.

Those who barely pass or fail feel their lives are useless and ruined and that they are good-for-nothings. And everyone knows everyone else's grade to the one tenth of the mark. You can hear even illiterate persons say, "how much did so and so get?" "Oh, 66.4." This one tenth of a mark becomes so important because it determines what subject that student is then able to study once he or she enters the university. The sad thing of it all is that once the exams are over, all this unneeded junk that students were forced to memorise is discarded at once and the student is left exactly where he was before the exams began. So, what did these tests prove? The best marks go to the student best in memorising. Someone not so good in memorising is given a lesser subject to study or left out of the picture entirely. Wouldn't it be shocking if Tawjihi students were given the same tests one year later and supposedly one year smarter?

Tawjihi tests are an unnecessary waste of time and effort not only for the student and his or her family, but for the nation as well. What alternatives then can be offered? Obviously, we cannot abandon the idea of testing altogether, but we can revise, change and make endless experiments forever, because this is what all standardised tests do, always striving for ultimate perfection and never following the easy deception that perfection has been achieved. We might, as the honourable Dr. Laila Yaghi, head of the Department of Institutions of Higher Education Abroad at the Ministry of Higher Education sites, "Leave testing up to individual universities concerned or test those abilities in related fields of study. For instance, why should a student who excels in maths be forced to study something he neither likes nor may be good at just because he might not have done well in Tawjihi English for example? Pre-entrance college exams could take the place of Tawjihi."

Another outstanding woman in the field of education, Mrs. Badia Murad, the director of cultural relations at the Ministry of Education, also thinks, "we should have centres of testing throughout the year so that exams for Tawjihi will not be given on two specific dates, but at accredited centres situated at strategic spots in the Kingdom so that whenever a student feels ready and capable, he or she will be able to sit for the exam. This will relieve pressure on students, their families and also public servants. Students should be free to sit for such exams anywhere starting from the 1st through the 12th grade and when a student fails he or she will have the chance to repeat this exam more than one time. After all, education should not be a torture or a tragedy, but an experience of learning and fun."

Absolutely so, education should be made fun, interesting and challenging to young minds. It should not be a drudgery, a heavy burden to carry or a torture that has to be pursued in order to achieve certain goals. We must teach our youth how to survive in the 21st century and lead them through those fields of education in which they have talent and an aptitude for learning. When we accomplish this, we will have produced effective leaders of tomorrow.

This year, approximately 78,000 students will sit for Tawjihi exams. It is expected that from 51-55 per cent will pass. Yet, not all those with passing grades will be eligible to enter private or public universities. Rumour has it that the bi-annual method of testing will be abolished and replaced by an annual affair where students will be tested in the whole subject they are studying. This is even more unfair than the bi-annual method, for by undergoing testing twice a year, at least students know something of what to expect the second time around and are not so horrified by it. There must be alternative solutions to present day methods of Tawjihi testing as well as testing in general.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shagair

AMAZING FACTS

- Algeria became French territory because, during a heated argument between Algerian ruler Bey Hussein and the French consul, Bey Hussein lost his temper and hit the consul on the head with a fly-swatter. War was declared between the two countries and, in 1830, Algeria was conquered.
- Henry VI succeeded to the thrones of England and France at the age of nine months on Aug. 31, 1422.
- In 1890, a cow called Mollie, from Ohio, USA, began giving black milk. The phenomenon had the scientists of the day baffled. But the milk tasted very good as did the butter made from it, although it did look like a slab of coal tar.
- There are 65,000,000 bowlers in the world — there is an Alley in Japan which has over 500 lanes!
- In India a tigress was shot in 1911. Her crime? She had killed over 400 people in just 8 years before being caught.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- I'll do my best to help you.
Sawfa abzol jahdi le mossa'adatik.
Ghalat.
Sahh.
- Wrong.
Mamnoo at'tadkheen.
Sahh.
- Right.
Mamnoo ad-dukhool.
Mamnoo al-muroor.
- No smoking.
Tarceq masdoor.
Manfaz/Makhraj.
- No entry.
Idfa'.
- No passing.
Iskab.
- Dead-end street.
Bil'it'at'keed.
- Exit.
Bikolli suroor.
- Push.
Haza karamon minka.
- Pull.
Sahh.
- Certainly.
Sahh.
- With pleasure.
Sahh.
- It's very kind of you.
Sahh.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TIME FOR FUN

- ★ JUDGE: You're accused of having stolen a turkey. What have you to say?
MAN: I took it for a lark.
JUDGE: A turkey looks nothing like a lark.
Fined 10 pounds!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- ★ DAD: John, go outside and see if it's raining, will you?
SON: Can't I just call the dog in and see if he's wet!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- ★ BOB: Which is farthest away, the sun or China?
ROB: China.
BOB: Why?
ROB: Well, you can see the sun, but you can't see China.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- ★ "Did you hear about the thief who stole a calendar?"
— "He got twelve months!"

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

1. The largest diamond in the world is
2. The deepest lake is
3. The shortest day is
4. The biggest palace is
5. The highest tower is
6. The biggest stadium is
7. The tallest tree is
8. The coldest region is
9. The longest wall is
10. The fastest bird is
11. The wingless bird is
12. The largest sea-hird is
13. The most intelligent animal is
14. The bird that never makes its nest is
15. The reptile that changes its colours

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PERSONAL HABITS FOR EVERY DAY

TABLE CUSTOMS

Help your child to absorb these valuable pieces of advice while sitting at the table to have his meal:

- Do not allow him to repeat expressions like:
"Say, Ma, gimme a pickle."
"Hey, kid, pass the bread."
"Throw me an olive, Sissy."
- Never let him take up one portion of meat or a slice of steak and put it down for another.
- Tell him never to test tea or coffee to see if it is too hot by taking a spoonful. Let him taste carefully from the cup.
- Never let him get accustomed to blowing food to cool it.
- Warn him not to pour a hot drink from a cup into a saucer.
- Let him know that licking fingers, no matter how sticky they may be, is unfavourable.
- Caution him to avoid licking his lips or his dish.
- Give him ample time to practise such polite expressions:
"May I have a little dressing?"
"May I have some jelly, please?"
"Just give me a little piece of steak, please."
"Do you suppose that I might have a pickle?"

PUZZLES

(A) WHAT IS IT?

- An ancient capital of a famous Arab country known now as the City of the Seven Mountains. The name consists of 12 letters.
■ 1, 3, 4, 7 heap.
■ 2, 7, 4, 8 Place where the souls of wrong-doers are punished after death.
■ 5, 8, 11, 12 Jordanian Airlines.
■ 6, 5, 4, 7 Valley.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

(B) COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING
SCOTLAND 27186453 LOTS 7293 LOAN 8367
AND

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, June 9

8:30 Da Beats On

9:10 Bony

Old Medicine

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie of the week — Story of Vengeance

Starring: Robert Conrad and William McNamara

Friday, June 10

9:00 Scene Of The Crime

The Maestro

10:00 News In English

10:20 Middle match

Middle match flourishes under Dorthea's plans to help the unemployed... while Lifgate and Rosie go through financial troubles, threatening their marriage.

Saturday, June 11

8:30 The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air

9:10 The Campbells

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Eyewitness To Murder

Starring: Andrew Stevens and Sherry Walter Joe

An eyewitness to a murder case, who lost her sight while escaping an attempt on her life, leads the murderer to more killings... until he finally stops. The film requires PARENTAL GUIDANCE.

Sunday, June 12

8:30 You Bet Your Life

9:10 Stolen Life

James demands divorce and custody of Dawn. Evelyn threatens to ruin him by exposing the kidnapping to the press.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The House Of Eliott

Following their financial troubles, the sisters are able now to concentrate on their new ballet project amid

celebrations to Tilly's wedding.

Monday, June 13

8:30 The Nanny

The Butler, The Husband And The Wife

The nanny and the butler play the husband and wife's part in front of members of the butlers' union.

9:10 The Coral World

The Plight Of The Pelicans

10:00 News In English

10:20 G.P.

11:10 Top Cops

Tuesday, June 14

8:30 Step By Step

Hog Wild

9:10 Moon Over Miami

Memory Man

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Evidence Of Love

Starring: Barbara Hershey

A film based on a true story. Peggy, a mother of two children, is found murdered. Police suspect all the family.

11:10 The Sound Half

High Noon

Wednesday, June 15

8:30 Coach

Belly Of The Beast

A court is in session to decide on the case of leader of a musical band bitten by a dog.

9:00 A Kind Of Magic

9:30 The World Of The 30

10:00 News In English

10:20 Poldark

مكتبة في المنزل

George Eliot's life was far from provincial norms

"If we had a keen vision and feeling of all ordinary human life, it would be like hearing the grass grow and the squirrel's heart beat, and we should die of that roar which lies on the other side of silence. As it is, the quickest of us walk about well wadded with stupidity." George Eliot, *Middlemarch*.

By Jessica Baldwin
The Associated Press

LONDON — George Eliot's face was her fortune. She was so ugly that her father feared she would never attract a man, so he made sure she had an education.

"To begin with she is magnificently ugly — deliciously hideous," the American novelist Henry James wrote to his father. "She has a low forehead, a dull gray eye, a vast pendu-

lous nose, a huge mouth full of uneven teeth.

"Now in this vast ugliness resides a most powerful beauty which, in a very few minutes, steals forth and charms the mind, so that you end as I ended, falling in love with her."

Eliot, the pen name of Mary Ann Evans, was fortified both by education and by an enduring but unconventional affair with a married man, George Lewes. He privately called her Dorothea or Dodo, because

she was so like the heroine of *Middlemarch*.

The novel was one of Eliot's great successes, a best seller in its day and once again this year following an acclaimed television version. The BBC production of *Middlemarch* was an instant hit when it was broadcast earlier this year in England. The series now is airing here on PBS.

Published in installments in *Maga* magazine in 1871-72, it became "the book of the moment, read and discussed by everyone, acclaimed by reviewers, in demand by translators and quickly netted over £9,000 (£320,000, or \$480,000 in current value) for its author," Ina Taylor wrote in her biography of Eliot.

The author and Dorothea shared a respect for certain middle-class values, including women subjugating their own work to help their husbands.

But Eliot's rejection of

provincial life, her bald interest in money and her scandalous living arrangements were a far cry from Dorothea's quiet, pious existence.

Mary Ann Evans, who preferred to be called Marian, was born in 1819, the daughter of a land agent in the English midlands. She went to school in nuneaton and later moved with her father to Coventry, which became the model for the fictitious, insulated town of *Middlemarch*.

Robert Evans, the model for Caleb Garth in the novel, gave his daughter a better-than-average education because he thought her large head, prominent chin and bulbous nose could hurt her marriage chances and she would be left to her own resources.

She studied French, Italian, Greek and Latin so that she could read more widely. Books and new friends exposed her to progressive ideas, including the

rejection of religion. The radical move was the first strain in relations with her socially obsessed family.

Her German was good enough to translate *The Life Of Jesus*, by Friedrich Strauss, published in 1846 by John Chapman.

The death of her father three years later freed her from domestic duties, and she set off for Chapman's Boarding House on The Strand, a hub of London's literary world.

Evans earned her living anonymously editing Chapman's influential *Westminster Review* and working as a journalist for a number of other publications.

After a series of disastrous romances, including one with a man who found her "morbidly intellectual," Marian fell in love with Lewes, a critic and journalist. He was married to a woman he didn't love but couldn't divorce under Victorian law.

Evans adopted her pen

name because men were paid more and had greater book sales than women writers. She chose George to honour her lover, and Eliot because it fit, she said.

Bravely ridiculing Victorian values, she lived with Lewes from 1853 until his death in 1878. It was during those years, encouraged by Lewes, that Eliot wrote her eight novels, including *The Mill On The Floss*, *Adam Bede*, *Silas Marner* and *Middlemarch*, which is considered the best.

The novel — much like a modern-day soap opera — follows the twists and turns of *Middlemarch* residents: The saint-like Dorothea Brooke whose mission to help the poor is frustrated by her marriage to the elderly and pedantic Edward Casaubon; the young doctor Tertius Lydgate, whose ambition to make medical history is thwarted by his pretty, selfish wife, Rosamond Vincy; the

hypocritical Nicholas Bulstrode whose sanctimony hides a sinister past.

David Lodge, the British critic and author, told the *Sunday Times* *Middlemarch* has "that splendid balance between the intellectual, emotional, psychological life and a broad panorama of social and political life."

Eliot, as a woman living out of wedlock with a man, was snubbed by many of her contemporaries and, most painfully, by her family. She refused to have children because of the stigma attached to bastards.

It wasn't until after Lewes died and Eliot, at 60, married John Cross that her family considered her respectable enough to reopen communications.

Cross, 20 years Eliot's junior, realised the marriage was a mistake while they were honeymooning in Venice and he tried to commit suicide by pitching himself into the Grand Canal.

The couple returned to England where Eliot died seven months later.

The best-seller status of *Middlemarch: A Study Of Provincial Life* waned as everything Victorian fell out of favour.

British readers F.R. Leavis included Eliot in "The Great Tradition," published in 1948, which traced the cultural continuity of English life and literature.

"She is not as transcendently great as Tolstoy, but she is great, and great in the same way," Leavis wrote.

Penguin Books refuses to give out sales figures but British press reports say *Middlemarch* has sold more than 100,000 copies since the BBC production was broadcast, beginning in January.

JTV Channel 2 is currently showing *Middlemarch* on Friday at 10:20.

Polanski thriving but still persona non grata in U.S.

By Marilyn August
The Associated Press

PARIS — In France, he's a highly respected director who has headed the Cannes Film Festival jury and co-starred with Gerard Depardieu. In the United States, he's a wanted man with a tragic past.

That's why Roman Polanski's latest film, *Bitter Moon*, a grim, sardonic sexual thriller about coming to grips with waning passion, had to open on American soil without him.

With an ever-puckish face, trim physique and only a handful of graying strands, it's hard to believe that Polanski, who turns 61 in August, remains a fugitive from justice on a morals charge dating back to 1977. At the time, the French-born Pole admitted to having sex with a 13-year-old girl, but jumped bail and fled to France before sentencing.

Since then, Polanski has lived quietly in Paris, gradually moving into the mainstream of France's film industry and slowly shedding his decades-old reputa-

tion as an "enfant terrible."

He has made only four films since 1977, relatively few for a man critics still considered one of the most gifted filmmakers of his generation.

Artistically speaking, however, Polanski rarely has been out of the headlines. Pirates, a futuristic swashbuckling romp, was a flop in the mid-1980s, but he rebounded to triumph as Gregor the beetle in a stage version of Kafka's *Metamorphosis*.

He then posted a box-office success with *Frantic*, a thriller starring Harrison Ford as a conference-going American doctor whose wife disappears from their Paris hotel room the day they arrive. Emmanuelle Seigner was the film's revelation and Polanski went on to marry her. Their daughter, Morgane, was born last year.

Returning to the United States to untangle the legal knots might simply disrupt his newfound marital stability, Polanski said in a recent interview.

"It's quite paradoxical that my legal problems are



Roman Polanski

not resolved. To do so, I would have to do something about them. I would have to go the U.S. and take action," he said in his office at the studios where he was filming *Death And The Maiden*, starring Ben Kingsley and Sigourney Weaver.

The morals charge "is an old story, but so am I. I can't think for myself alone anymore, now I have to consider my family."

Has Polanski, the master of disquieting malaise who directed *Chinatown* and "Rosemary's Baby," the onetime jet-setter known for late-night cavorting, turned into a family man?

It sounds that way. Polanski said he tries to eat

healthfully, stay fit and leave the all-night parties to others.

Though *Bitter Moon* has plenty of his trademark quirky sex and emotional violence, the underlying issues read like a conventional morality play: Real love, the kind that endures, cannot thrive on physical passion alone because it fades over time.

"One thing I'm certain about is that love doesn't synchronise with sexual or carnal desire," Polanski said.

"Whereas the later wanes quite rapidly, the other sometimes grows with time so there's a dichotomy which we don't know how to deal with."

For Polanski, familiarity ultimately snuffs out desire. "Why, I don't know, it just does," he said, shrugging. "You don't suspect that some couple who spend half a century together loving each other profoundly have the same fire as far as the sex is concerned."

"*Bitter Moon*, which took more than one year to find a U.S. distributor, dissects the psychology of pas-

sion in two couples who meet on a cruise ship from Venice to Istanbul.

Peter Coyote plays a 40-ish American expatriate writer living in Paris, and Seigner is Mimi, his unrepentant girlfriend half his age. Together they draw Nigel (Hugh Grant) and Fiona (Kristin Scott Thomas) into their private nightmare, titillating them as they fuel an already sadistic relationship careening out of control.

Polanski works wonders with familiar clichés about love in Paris. There's a romantic dinner, a moonlight stroll around Notre Dame, breathless views of the Eiffel Tower, a dizzying Ferris Wheel ride in the Tuilleries Gardens.

"I love using clichés and turning them around or rendering them credible. I did both, but mostly I tried to make them look authentic and natural," he said.

Polanski admits the film leaves an impression of something more sexually explicit than meets the eye.

"There's an aura of something that should be X-rated, but when you go frame by frame, scene by scene, there's nothing — no frontal nudity, no bumping, no obscenity, no violence," he said.

Audiences may find that just when the tension becomes unbearable, something funny happens.

"Laughter is a safety valve, it alleviates the tension," Polanski said. "There's definitely humour in this film, but sometimes I fear it's too subtle and people may take it seriously."

Polanski said the story, adapted from a novel by



Harrison Ford and Emmanuelle Seigner in Roman Polanski's film *Frantic*

Pascal Bruckner, appealed to him because it attempts to understand why relationships go sour.

"The book deals with a relationship that fails without introducing a third party. In all love stories, you have the third person who steps in and begins the conflict," he said. "But the true conflict comes from within."

Polanski's life has been checkered with violence since childhood. His immigrant parents, whom he describes bitterly as "broke and too stupid to know what they were doing," returned to their native Poland where they were promptly arrested by Nazis and deported to Auschwitz. His mother perished, his father returned, after 5 years in a concentration camp, to collect him and his sister from a pig farm where

they had bidden.

Polanski said Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List* was a great film, and admitted he had long thought about making a movie about the Holocaust.

"I don't know when I'll be ready for it, but certainly not yet."

Polanski's newfound happiness has helped to recover from the tragedy that forever linked his name to violence — the ghastly murder of Sharon Tate, his pregnant wife, by members of the Charles Manson Cult in 1968.

His current project, *Death And The Maiden*, also has to do with psychological and physical violence.

"By the time I'm finished, I'll probably want to direct a crazy comedy," he said.

Looking beyond Achy Breaky Heart

By Jim Patterson
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — OK, "Achy Breaky Heart" has come and gone.

Travis Tritt hated it, Bruce Springsteen loved it. Billy Ray Cyrus has to try to follow it up.

There was a TV special, a Dolly Parton video. The tabloids dissected his personal life. Some believed Cyrus was a limited talent, the good-looking beneficiary of a master hype campaign by the brain trust at Mercury Records.

"For the longest period of time during the whole second half of 1992, people were really asking the questions about the 'one-hit wonder' and 'what do you do to follow this up?'" Cyrus, 31, said during an interview at his manager's office, looking fit and tan and wearing an ever-revealing T-shirt.

"I couldn't help those thoughts getting inside of me of, 'What if? What if this? What if that?'"

And there were the temptations of success to consider, which Cyrus said he rejected.

"I never sat and relished in those things. I never sat and looked at my trophies and my plaques," Cyrus said.

"I figure some day if I live long enough I'll sit and be like Daffy Duck on that cartoon where he hit all that gold and just rolled in it."

A quotation included in the notes of Cyrus' sophomore album, *It Won't Be The Last*, provides the singer's reaction to the press-



Billy Ray Cyrus

ures:

"I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by conscious endeavour."

The quote comes from Henry David Thoreau, who surely would have needed time to ponder the meaning of "Achy Breaky Heart," and sums up the philosophy Cyrus has studied for years in motivational books.

To Cyrus, it means manual work habits and an unshakable belief in himself. His music drips blood and sweat. Billy Ray Cyrus may not be the most gifted kid in the class, but he won't be outclassed when it comes to determination.

"I'm a very focused person from where I've studied men like Thomas Edison," Cyrus said. "I've learned that where the people have no vision, they perish."

"I know if I don't stay focused on what I want — if I started thinking about what everybody else out there wanted me to think about... then I wouldn't be living my life. I would be living theirs."

"So I believe that I am intelligent enough to use what got me to this point. That's visualisation and focusing on what I want and the dreams I have. I just let all those other things go down the sewer where they

belong."

So will all this hard work, visualisation, etc., pay off without an innovative marketing effort such as the one behind *Achy Breaky Heart*?

There aren't any plans for another country dance promotion like the phenomenally successful one for the big hit, Mercury officials said.

Instead, Cyrus has the advantages of super-stardom on his side. The new release will be featured on Entertainment Tonight, Good Morning America.

Cyrus calls himself the new Frito Bandito, because the maker of corn chips and other snacks is sponsoring his tour.

Phil Donahue will host an hour special on Cyrus. And a 90-minute radio interview-music special on the new album is being provided free of charge by the record label to more than 2,000 radio stations.

And the music? Well, Cyrus and his producers wisely avoided an *Achy Breaky Heart* retread. *Achy Breaky Heart* author Don Von Tress, though, is represented four times on the new album.

The highlight is the Cyrus-Von Tress song *When I'm Gone*, in which Cyrus faces up to comparisons with Elvis Presley.

Cyrus and The Jordanaires, the vocal quartet that frequently backed Presley, do a restrained performance on the tune, reminiscent of *Are You Lonesome Tonight?*

The rest is high-energy

Cyrus. He brushes the edges of bellowing, but never gets into dangerous Michael Bolton territory.

The bouncy *Achy Breaky Heart* was a summer sensation a year ago. It thrust Cyrus, an unknown but charismatic former used-car salesman from Flatwoods, Ky., into the national spotlight.

"A song like *Achy Breaky Heart* only comes around once every so often. To try and mimic that would be foolish," Cyrus said.

Can this positive thinker even conceive of his new album failing to sell, and his stardom slipping away? There are more than enough skeptics who think that will be his fate.

"Anything is possible in this business," Cyrus said.

"What is important is the integrity of the music is there, whether or not it sells nine million copies. I'll be happy if it sells 1 million. I'll be happy whatever it does."

And he'll keep working. After a decade-plus of struggling before he hit, Cyrus says he's at a crossroads.

"Did I take it and use it for good or did I squander it? Did I pull the old Daffy Duck and roll around in it? I feel it's very important now to just use my life for as many good things as I can," he said.

"I'm on a roller coaster standing up in my seat with no seatbelt in the middle of a hurricane," Cyrus says that with a glint in his eye, like there's no other place he'd rather be.

Chanel — an immortal name

Veronique Savoure, French international press and foreign affairs coordinator for Chanel is in Jordan for a week to study the marketing possibilities for their products on an invitation from Abu Shaqra Agency.

Ms. Savoure is giving a short rundown of the Chanel house.

Gabrielle Chanel, "Mademoiselle" to her colleagues, "Coco" to her intimates, was universally acclaimed as one of the most outstanding personalities of the fashion world. She became a legend in her own lifetime and was a "media star" long before the phrase was invented.

Gabrielle Chanel had a gloomy childhood. To escape the boredom of her provincial youth, she moved to Paris in 1909, where she began creating hats for her friends. In 1912, she established "CHANEL MODES" on the Rue Cambon. Success rapidly followed. She went on to open a boutique in Deauville, and revolutionised the fashion world with her use of jersey.

In 1939, Gabrielle Chanel retired from the fashion world to live in Switzerland. But she was back again in



Coco Chanel

1954 at the age of 71, when she reopened the Rue Cambon House of Chanel with a success that has gone down in the annals of fashion history. Updating her classic style, she introduced a look that has become a cultural reference point for this century: The suit with braid trim and gold buttons, the silk blouse, long necklaces, the quilted shoulder bag with chains, and beige and black sling-back pumps.

By banishing everything she disliked, Mademoiselle Chanel was a constant in-

novator. She made her mark with much more than fashion: She set a complete style — a way of walking, living and simply being, the very spirit of the 20th century.

"A woman who does not wear perfume has no future," said Gabrielle Chanel.

Chanel N°5 was launched in 1921, created by Mademoiselle Chanel and the celebrated perfumer Ernest Beaux. A revolutionary fragrance, it has since become legendary for its attributes of luxury and irresistible allure. While a host of perfumes bear the name of fashion designer today, Chanel is one of the very few houses that still creates and produces its own perfumes.

"Accessories make or unmake the woman," observed Mademoiselle Chanel. Pearls, long necklaces, earrings, belts, cloth camellias, hair ribbons, silk scarves... these are part of the fashion essentials she created and which are now made by specialists who perpetuate the production secrets of the craftspeople with whom she once worked. Each piece of Chanel jewellery is individually controlled for quality.

China's 'AIDS town' fights deadly image problem

By Andrew Quinn
Reuters

RUILI, China — Set in fertile farmland in some of China's most beautiful countryside, the town of Ruili in lush Yunnan province seems a pastoral vision of Asian balance.

Temple spires soar skyward with a whisper of mirrors and bells. Peasants pace the fields, sowing and reaping by hand. Laughing children rocket down shady country lanes on bicycles. Their scruffy shorts and sandals testament to the pleasures of living in China's "land of eternal spring."

The young prostitutes in

Ruili's red light district are a shock, but then they come from central Sichuan province. Photo exhibits of bloody corpses left after the city's latest drug executions are unnerving, but the narcotics come from across the border in Burma.

In fact, almost all of Ruili's problems come from elsewhere — except one: Its deadly image as China's "AIDS town" where sex, drugs, and the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) have combined to spark fear and prejudice.

"People come here and expect it to be complete chaos," said Duan Yujuan, a health official dealing with

AIDS. "It is exaggerated, and it is affecting our image."

"Mention Ruili in Beijing and people think immediately that there is a lot of drugs, AIDS and crime there," said Huang Yi, vice governor of the prefectural administration.

Ruili, in western Yunnan just over the border from Burma, has emerged as the focus of public concern over AIDS in China since its first group of infections were discovered among local intravenous drug users in 1989.

Populated by large numbers of ethnic minority groups and still governed by

the quiet rhythms of an agricultural society, Ruili is about as far as you can get from other AIDS centres such as San Francisco, New York or Sydney.

But with over 70 per cent of China's 1,200 proven cases of infection with the HIV virus believed to cause AIDS, Ruili has become a byword for the deadly disease in the world's most populous country.

The town is understandably unhappy about its dark fame. And, public health experts say the focus on Ruili shifts attention away from China's real AIDS timebomb — its coastal cities.

"Yunnan is not the problem. The infection may originate there, but it is the coast, where sexual transmission is rising, that the threat exists," one foreign health expert in Beijing said.

Beijing marked World AIDS Day last Dec. 1 by projecting as many as 100,000 HIV infections by the year 2000 which could cause economic losses of up to \$325 million if left unchecked.

HIV infection in Yunnan, still centred on drug users among peasants who rarely leave their villages, is now set to take wing — and Ruili is the launchpad.

Burmese border trade has made Ruili a boomtown, drawing the mix of prostitutes, truck drivers and easy cash that has spelled AIDS disaster in places in Africa.

Roads are being improved, flights added to the regional airport and investment encouraged, knitting

Ruili tighter into China's expanding economic fabric.

Bargains, many of them migrants from poor inland regions, whistle from dark doorways at passers-by. Salesmen, traders and truckers crowd the town's shops, restaurants and hotels.

"We think that sexual transmission is going to be our biggest problem in the future," said Wang Ruxin, a senior doctor at Yunnan's provincial Public Health Bureau.

Sexual contact was identified as the culprit behind about 20 per cent of China's cases of HIV infection in 1992, up from about 10 per cent in 1991. Doctors say the trend is clear.

"We have to put prevention first and involve everyone in the struggle," Mr. Wang said.

That struggle is made difficult by China's traditional attitudes toward AIDS, long seen as a "foreigner's disease" held at bay by

Communist concepts of morality. Ruili, far from the Chinese heartland, is easy for officials in Beijing to dismiss.

While health workers nervously track spreading infection rates, their political superiors have so far moved slowly.

"In the face of AIDS, the most important thing is to put these old ideologies and ideas aside and try to get something done," said Wang Wapeng, chief of the trail-blazing Kunming Drug Abuse Research Centre and a major organiser for Ruili anti-AIDS work.

Mr. Wang's project, funded in part by United Nations agencies, has taken four villages in the Ruili area with a total population of about 1,200 as a laboratory for grassroots work on preventing the disease, focusing on drug abusers.

"You cannot just work like government health officials and march into a village and demand blood

samples," Mr. Wang said. "Everybody will slip across the border to get away from you."

Mr. Wang, who said condoms were almost impossible to buy in Ruili only a few years ago, has logged noticeable success with his project, which combines health education with counselling on drug dependency.

Condom use has increased dramatically in the area, and planners are now hoping to expand the programme to include more villages, including several in Burma.

Doctors and public health officials say the lessons of Ruili must be applied to other areas of China if the country is to avoid an AIDS explosion in future. Education, and peer involvement, can play an important role.

"People infected with HIV can still work, and if they are not educated their main work will be to further spread HIV," Wang Wapeng warned.

Chinese health experts warn of AIDS explosion, call for education

By Kathy Wilhelm
The Associated Press

BEIJING — In China's earliest admission yet of the dangers it faces from AIDS, health experts have warned the country could suffer an explosion in the number of cases unless it starts far-reaching public education.

Research papers prepared by government experts and released at a conference estimated that China already has 4,810 people with the AIDS virus, and the number could exceed 250,000 by the year 2000 if preventive measures are not taken.

The government generally limits only to the number of HIV cases identified through official testing. This now stands at 1,361, including several hundred foreigners who were expelled after testing positive.

Although the government has a small-scale testing for the virus in the late

1980s, it has held back from wider testing or from sustained educational programmes because most officials regard AIDS as a disease that strikes only foreigners and fringe groups such as drug users. The disease is rarely mentioned in the official media, and surveys show few Chinese understand how it is spread.

Seventy-five per cent of Chinese infected with the AIDS virus are intravenous drug users along the south-western border with Burma.

However, officials at the conference said China cannot afford to be complacent because infections resulting from heterosexual contact are increasing faster than the number of drug-related cases.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) is caused by a virus that attacks the body's immune system, leaving it open to infection.

The purpose of the three-day conference, sponsored by the Public Health Minis-

try and State Council Research Office, is to approve recommendations for government action.

Foremost among them is a call for public education.

Qian Zhengying, a member of a government advisory body who addressed the opening session, criticised China's AIDS education so far as "far from enough both in breadth and depth."

"Our television stations should launch AIDS education in coordination with health departments," she said.

Among proposals the conference will consider is a requirement that the domestic media provide free time and space for AIDS information.

The State Council Research Office team that drew up the policy recommendations also called for better sex education in schools.

The experts also are recommending a wider role for non-government organisations in spreading AIDS information to high-risk

groups. Since both prostitution and homosexuality are punishable with terms in a labour camp, people involved in them are unlikely to come to government agencies for information or tests.

Police last year shut down a gay men's forum set up by the Health Ministry to spread AIDS information, and the employee who organised the forum was fired.

One of the expert reports indicated China in the end may fall back on police methods to deal with the disease. It blamed the United States' failure to contain AIDS on rampant promiscuity.

"To eradicate AIDS would require us to proceed with actions of prohibiting drug use, prostitution and promiscuity," it said.

"As a socialist country, China is in a position to cut out the main channels of HIV transmission. ... Socialism can really do something that capitalism cannot."

Genes may promote irritability, aggressive behaviour, study suggests

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — People who habitually get into arguments and fights or throw temper tantrums can blame some of it on their genes, a study of twins suggests.

Genes may account for 27 per cent to 40 per cent of a person's tendency toward irritability and several kinds of aggressiveness, according to the study. The rest comes from childhood and current experiences, researcher Dr. Emil Coccaro said.

The genes believed responsible have not been identified yet, but they may act by reducing the brain's supply of serotonin, which acts as a brake on aggressive responses, he said.

If so, drugs that help the brain keep up its serotonin supply might help in treating people with aggressive

tendencies, he said. Some preliminary evidence already suggests such drugs might work, he said.

Dr. Coccaro is director of the Clinical Neuroscience Research Unit at the Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He presented the work at the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association.

He and colleagues surveyed 182 identical twins and 119 fraternal twins, drawn from a registry of male twins who had served in the military. Their average age was 44, and nearly all were white.

Researchers often study twins to ferret out genetic influences. The reason is that identical twins share all their genes, while fraternal twins share only about half their genes on average. So when identical twins are more alike than

fraternal twins in a certain characteristic, it can be taken as a sign of genetic influence. Researchers can use results to estimate the strength of the genetic influences.

The twins filled out a questionnaire that asked, for example, whether they bang a table when angry and whether they respond to shouting by shouting back. Their answers were then tabulated into scores for irritability and three types of aggression.

The analysis suggested that indirect aggression, which basically means taking out one's anger on objects or throwing tantrums, had the strongest genetic influence. An estimated 40 per cent of this trait was attributed to genes.

Irritability was second with 38 per cent, then direct aggression, which means hitting people, with 33 per cent. Last came verbal aggression, which basically means screaming and cursing, with 27 per cent.

Dr. Coccaro did the work with Cindy Bergeman of the University of Notre Dame. John C. Loebelin, an emeritus professor of

psychology at the University of Texas in Austin, said in a telephone interview that the results made sense and resemble what other studies have found for genetic influence over other aspects of personality.

In a separate presentation, a government researcher said girls who had been sexually abused showed some biological abnormalities similar to those found in Vietnam veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder. That indicates stress, although the girls did not meet psychological criteria for the disorder, said the researcher, Dr. Frank Putnam, of the National Institute of Mental Health.

Studies in adults suggest that the abnormalities are persistent, but it is not yet clear what they might mean for the girls' health, he said.

One finding was high levels of natural substances called catecholamines in the urine. The other was unusually low production of a hormone in response to infusions of another hormone.

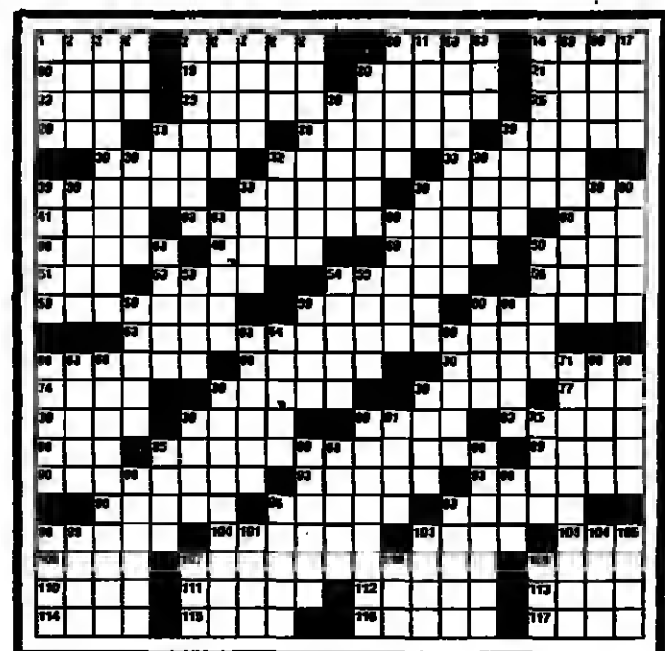
Studying biological responses to abuse might give leads for developing better treatment.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

ACROSS

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2. Scotch pattern
3. 1949 Heisman Trophy winner
4. Librarian's
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Last Week's Cryptograms

1. With a full moon on Friday the thirteenth, wouldn't you stay safe at home?
2. Crystal critic maintains the so-called "Mad tea party" was actually a wild happy hour.
3. Medicine will often differ as to what has led one to success, luck or pink.
4. Rampant employee absences has become the chief boss of employees.

CRYPTOGRAMS

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L E B W I A N Y D E S C A B W A V L W E D W J E W B C
T Y B L E C P W Q A D Y K A

—By Earl Ireland

2. B U A B U C S Y M A S H S T A A T K Y N G A S P U C B
V U T O V U S U Y F O Y M V U T O H E J K J B M C N
"A P B K Y S T H B F O N J."

—By Duane H. McGee

3. K Z G B W O Z I P M Z K I K S T M A N Q V L Q A P T C
A T G T C K V V K W B Q V O I E Q B K P M A J E M E
W N E W Z L A T Q S M T C B W K I C A M B Z W J C T M

—By Sol Telenkov

4. T B L U P S T Y P Y E P T Y B K B T Y S I K I
S K Y M P L B M U T T A P S A K A A K A L L L

—By Ed Haddleton



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How to keep your nose clean

By John Illman

HAY FEVER is back, affecting those who are allergic to pollen, causing itchy eyes, blocked or runny noses, sneezing, headaches and tiredness. It is called "hay fever" and not "pollen fever" because although most plants produce pollen, it is pollen from grass (hay is dried grass) which affects most sufferers.

Some people affected by pollen from garden flowers or trees begin to sneeze and snifle as early as January or February but the peak is May-July. To protect yourself:

- Open windows in the morning and close them at midday. Daily pollen levels are highest at noon.
- Close windows in tall buildings. The count is lowest at ground level.
- Close car windows and ventilation systems, especially in the countryside.
- Avoid parks and country holidays in June and July. Head for the coast. Sea breezes are often pollen free. Rising air currents in mountainous country sweep up the sloping pastures, taking the pollens with them.
- Splash your face with and immerse your nostrils in cold water to flush away pollen and dust particles.
- Keep out of the garden when the lawn is being mowed.
- Lay paving stones as an alternative to grass.

This is the time to start preventive medicine (unless you are allergic to tree pollen, in which case you should have started in March).

Available drugs include:

ANTIHISTAMINES: Taken daily. Newer products like loratadine, terfenadine and astemizole do not cause drowsiness like older ones.

CORTICOSTEROIDS: Nasal sprays are good for nasal symptoms. Products include beclomethasone dipropionate, budesonide and flunisolide.

SODIUM CROMOGLYCATE: These anti-inflammatory eye drops may help relieve symptoms that do not respond to antihistamines.

A blocked nose can reduce the effectiveness of treatments, resulting in the use of decongestants. John Donaldson, in his book, *Living With Asthma And Hayfever* published this month, says: "Decongestant drops should be avoided. They are designed to shrink the swollen nasal linings and they do so effectively, so that you feel better. Then there is a rebound and the swelling returns, this time in a more severe form.... So you take more drops. You end up either being permanently bunged up or the mucus blanket dries, and leaves the linings exposed to germs." The Guardian.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Cullian (over 1½ lbs)
2. Baikal. (3,200 ft — Siberia).
3. Dec. 22.
4. Vatican (Italy).
5. Tokyo tower. (Japan) — 1,000 ft high.
6. Strabov Stadium (Prague) for 240,000 spectators.
7. Howard Libbey Tree (California) — 385 ft high.
8. Verkhoyansk (Siberia).
9. The Great Wall of China (1,400 miles).
10. Switt.
11. Kiwi.
12. Albatross.
13. Chimpanzee.
14. Cuckoo.
15. Chameleon.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLES

(A) WHAT IS IT?

— Philadelphia — currently called "Amman".

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

(B) 786. (The numbers after the word "Scotland" correspond to the letters of that word; the words "lots", "loan", and "and", are made up from the letters in "Scotland", and the numbers after them are the numbers corresponding to these letters in the original word, with 1 added to each number after "lots", 2 added after "loan", and 3 added after "and".)

مكتبة من الكتب

Global security: The missing balance



AMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has emphasized the need for a global security that is able to address the socio-economic, political and literary aspects of international relations.

In an address to the U.N. on his behalf by Jordan's ambassador to the world, Adnan Abu Odeh, the Crown Prince said it was necessary before devising a concept of comprehensive global security to reach consensus on new ethics for development.

Existing economic theories have traditionally examined issues of cooperation and conflict on the basis of rationality-maximising, the Crown Prince said in the address to the world.

Following is the full text of the Crown Prince's speech:

Linking the two agendas: peace and development

An agenda for development could complement the already established agenda for peace. "Development, Peace and Security," provides a link between the two agendas for peace and development must go hand in hand.

Balance between SC and OSCE

The significance of this cannot be overemphasized. It explicitly recognises: often neglected need to consider, within one framework, the socio-economic, political, and military dimensions of interaction between states. The founding fathers of the United Nations see to divide the responsibilities for these dimensions be-

tween two councils: the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. The end of the cold war, coupled with the increased complexity and globalisation of international affairs, mean that an agenda for development should explicitly recognise the need to coordinate and achieve a more appropriate balance between these two councils.

3. An inter-disciplinary action plan

The task at hand is not a matter of exploring new frontiers. In many respects it represents a re-exploration. UN-GAR 47/181, which requested a report on an agenda for development, recalls the U.N. Charter's commitment to employ international machinery to promote the economic and social advancement of all peoples. It is nearly 50 years since the preamble of the charter asserted the need to "promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom." An agenda for development should include among its priorities the formulation of an inter-disciplinary action plan to realise these ideals. Articles 55 and 56 of the charter recognise the inter-disciplinary nature of international relations. This is abundantly clear in such statements as "conditions of stability and well-being...are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations."

4. Global comprehensive security

An effective action plan for development should tap the potential synergy between the socio-economic, political and military dimensions of international relations. A broadly defined global comprehensive security concept that can en-

compass these three dimensions is urgently needed.

5. A new ethic of development

Before evolving a concept of global comprehensive security, it is necessary to achieve consensus on a new ethic of development. Economic theories that examine the problems of co-operation and conflict within societies have traditionally been based on a concept of rational utility-maximising behaviour. But these theories are increasingly being supplemented by ethical considerations. In the same spirit, the exploration of a new ethic of development can help us to rethink the realities of the international political economy, as well as to provide the foundation for a concept of international comprehensive security. It must be made clear that the intended beneficiary of international development is supposed to be.

6. The international political economy: A matrix of agendas

Such a rethinking, within the context of an agenda for development, will help us to achieve an appropriate focus on the different structures of the international political economy. While states, transnational firms and the international financial institutions are essential elements in any effective agenda for development, other factors, such as the human dimension, environment, gender, labour rights, debt and financial flows, must also be considered within an integrated framework. The interaction between the three previously mentioned dimensions of security, together with people, resources and arms

control, should be addressed within the same framework. This can lead to a matrix of agendas, which can accommodate a wider range of variables than is customary in this type of discourse.

As an example, the recently formed World Trade Organisation (WTO), which replaces GATT, relates environmental factors and labour rights to trade; but it is significant that it has not yet focused on the need for a code of conduct for foreign investors or effective mechanisms to deal with restrictive business practices. The

founding fathers of GATT recognised these needs when they met in Havana in 1948 to consider the establishment of the International Trade Organisation (ITO), which was never activated. The re-exploration of these concepts is an important part of the new Agenda for Development. The cold war forced nations to look for more effective vehicles than the U.N. to deal with transnational priorities. A post cold war agenda for development should consider how to internalise such vehicles as the G7 and integrate them with the

U.N. system if the U.N. is to achieve credibility as it moves into the 21st century. The purpose is not to criticise or detract from the importance of such vehicles, but rather to enhance their effectiveness within an increasingly globalised setting.

7. Indicators of security

The problem of defining comprehensive global security is not insurmountable. In the Agenda for Peace (paragraph 12), it is asserted that "the concept of peace is easy to grasp; that of international security more complex, for a pattern of contradictions has arisen." It goes on to state that "progress also brings new risks for stability: ecological damage, disruption of family life, greater intrusion into the lives and rights of individuals." It adds (paragraph 13) that "this new dimension of insecurity must not be allowed to obscure the continuing and devastating problems of unchecked population growth, crushing debt burdens, barriers to trade, drugs and the growing disparity between rich and poor." It should be possible to develop "inter-disciplinary indicators of security" that cover all the foregoing dimensions. This can be regarded as a logical evolution of the social indicators of development published annually by the World Bank, which cover GNP per capita, life expectancy, gross primary school enrolment and access to safe water. A comprehensive, multi-dimensional "security diamond" can parallel the "development diamond" evolved by the World Bank.

8. Common ground: Prevent-

ing a drift towards peace and development

The development of interdisciplinary indicators of security can assist in the evolution of a basket approach to the global challenges facing humanity. It can serve as an instrument for expanding the common ground between nations. The Agenda for Peace states (paragraph 2) "the United Nations is a gathering of sovereign states and what it can do depends on the common ground that they can create between them." New approaches for promoting common ground between nations are urgently needed in the post-cold war period. It is worth recalling that a major contributor to the eruption of World War II was what historians describe as the "drift to peace." This drift occurred although anti-war sentiment was more prevalent after World War I than after World War II. The world today cannot afford another ineffectual drift towards development, peace and security.

9. Regional building blocs

There is a need to progress from purely bilateral dealings among nations, and to evolve regional building blocs. The studies of U.N. regional agencies notwithstanding, bilateralism has meant that no regional ethic has emerged. It is necessary to indigenous regional perceptions, and for regions to address the world with their priorities, thus inviting intraregional cooperation worldwide. Needless to say, such regional blocs should not become, as some analysts have said, stumbling blocks on the way to wider global cooperation.

10. A pax humanitas

A new ethic of development requires a redefinition not only of security but also of peace. Notwithstanding the notion that "the concept of peace is easy to grasp" (an Agenda for Peace, paragraph 12), a redefinition of peace must contend with the inertia of cold war thinking. Among many possibilities, perhaps that of a humanitas — a humanistic peace — best reflects the aspirations of the U.N. founding fathers, and most effectively meets our needs at this juncture of world history.

11. A dialogue of cultures

Some may consider the proposed approach to be utopian or impractical. But if a dialogue of cultures is to replace the predicted clash of civilisations, the propensity to stereotyping, demonisation and antagonism must be challenged. The alarming world realities can perhaps be best illustrated by the sharp contrast between current investments in peace and war. An Agenda for Peace highlights the serious shortage of funds to cover the cost of present peacekeeping operations, estimated at about \$3 billion annually. It adds (paragraph 47) that "against this, global defence expenditures at the end of the last decade had approached \$1 trillion a year, or \$2 million per minute." If collective political will to channel resources to invest in peace is to be mobilised, a dialogue of cultures will be essential. Such a dialogue will thus be a vital prerequisite to a successful agenda for development.

Israel, Jordan to negotiate borders and water

(Continued from page 1)

the proposed canal connecting the Dead Sea to the Red Sea and a proposal will be studied, Dr. Anani said.

The minister said a Jordanian agreement to accept the location of an American port on the Jordan Valley did mean that the Kingdom is dropping its reservations on launching such projects on the border and water resources are settled. "In the framework of studies at the present time, we cannot think such projects except after reaching an agreement on the border issue," Dr. Anani said.

Regarding the economic relations, especially in light of the recent reached between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in April on the border and trade, the Jordanian side clarified the implications of an agreement on the Jordanian economy, because it is, to a certain degree, Jordan's freedom of exporting its goods to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Dr. Anani said.

The Israeli side agreed to the location of Jordanian exports to the Palestinian territories. I also agreed that if there are any proposals in the future to issue a Palestinian currency, Jordan would be notified before hand to give it sufficient time to take measures to protect its currency.

It also became clear that there were issues to be discussed bilaterally. A proposal was made calling for a Jordanian-Palestinian economic committee to discuss some of the issues in order to develop it to finalise it in a proper way," Dr. Anani said.

In my opinion, these are important results for Jordan because it achieves and tributes to asserting the graphic and demographic unity of Jordan," the minister reported.

The delegates from Israel and Jordan signed three documents setting out a detailed agenda for further talks.

The first text concerns water and the environment, the second addresses security and the third concerns border and other territorial issues.

The security text pledges Israel and Jordan will work up security arrangements to discuss confidence measures between the two sides.

The two countries decided to begin negotiations on their border dispute in July, after with talks on development projects.

The border commission will meet either in Jordan or Israel, Jordanian official said.

The final border decision will refer to the boundary map drawn up in 1922 by Britain.

He then held the Palestine date, when it set the borders for Transjordan.

Jordan hopes to regain a strip of about 360 square kilometres from the Gulf of Aqaba to the Dead Sea, as well as two square kilometres south of Lake Tiberias in the Jordan

Valley.

The Washington delegates described the meetings as a "very useful and very productive."

U.S. special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross, who headed the U.S. delegation, said the discussions and agreements of the past two days have demonstrated a "very pragmatic, down-to-earth approach on how to proceed and how to make progress."

Jordanian Ambassador Fayez Tarawneh said his delegation is pleased at what has been accomplished and "believes this session has been an important juncture in our pursuit" of peace in the Middle East. He said the Israeli-Jordanian agreement to establish a commission to handle bilateral issues could set the stage for future bilateral cooperation in a regional context.

Israel Ambassador Ely Rubenstein said his delegation is "glad that another step on the road to peace has been taken." He called the Jordanians "tough but fair negotiators" and said the achievements of the meetings exceeded "normal expectations."

Asked if Israel had given Jordan a commitment to withdraw from the occupied territories, Dr. Tarawneh said: "We are now certain that we will start defining, delineating and demarcating the borders through the mechanism that we agreed upon, and this will settle everything."

Dr. Tarawneh stressed that the Israeli-Jordan bilateral aspect of the peace talks had "lagged behind in the past four to five months" since the two sides agreed a common agenda for talks in September, noting that no discussions had since been held under the various headings.

The agreement announced Tuesday to set up a commission on boundaries, security, water and the environment was in line with the September Agenda.

Other items in the agenda would be addressed "once an initial breakthrough has been achieved on the issues and topics that I have mentioned," Dr. Tarawneh said.

But he stressed that there was a very long way to go before a peace treaty could be drawn up, and both he and Mr. Rubenstein reiterated that any bilateral progress must be seen in the overall context of the Middle East peace process.

Asked if the progress in Israeli-Jordanian talks meant that Middle East peace talks could now resume, Mr. Ross said no decision had yet been made.

The talks have basically been suspended since the Hebron mosque massacre in February.

Tuesday's agreement was "a positive step on a pathway that is moving us in a direction in which we all want to go," Mr. Ross said.

He refused to comment on whether Secretary of State Warren Christopher would go on to the Middle East after

attending a meeting in Istanbul at the end of the week.

Mr. Christopher said in a U.S. television interview Tuesday that he hoped to visit the Middle East soon. The State Department said Monday that a Middle East trip after Istanbul had not been ruled out.

Asked whether the steps toward expanded contacts would mean an end to the Arab economic boycott of Israel, Ambassador Tarawneh replied: "We still have a long way to go. This is not a Jordanian decision. This is an Arab decision."

The U.S. Department of State issued the following statement:

The fourth meeting of the U.S.-Jordanian-Israeli Trilateral Economic Committee was held in Washington on June 6-7, 1994. The group met in plenary, and as in previous meetings, convened in two sub-groups: on trade, banking and finance, and on cooperative projects.

Among the results of this trilateral:

On trade, banking and finance:

Jordan and Israel agreed to begin work on a draft framework which would explore and outline future trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Both sides discussed in detail, both bilaterally and with the U.S., their respective economic agreements with the Palestinians.

Both sides will continue their consultations on banking issues.

Jordan and Israel proposed to invite participation by Palestinians in a new trilateral forum for discussion by mutual agreement of trade, banking and finance issues which affect the three parties. The U.S. may also be invited to participate in some aspects of these discussions.

On cooperative projects:

The parties agreed to engage on a number of issues simultaneously:

The parties discussed Jordan's and Israel's conceptual papers on their comprehensive development plans for the Jordan Rift Valley. The U.S. will assist the parties by merging these into an umbrella master plan which can serve as a basis for a sub-group trilateral meeting on the subject in the region in July 1994.

The parties agreed to convene a sub-group trilateral meeting of experts on tourism in the region in July, which will include representatives from the private sector. Special focus will be tourism promotion in the Dead Sea and Aqaba-Eilat areas.

The parties will designate one official each who will be responsible for trilateral coordination on a trans-boundary cultural heritage park in the Rift Valley. To this end, the U.S. has proposed a trilateral site visit to a U.S. national park next

month which could serve as an appropriate model for development in the region.

The parties agreed in principle on the utility of constructing a road to link Jordan, Israel and Egypt in the vicinity of Aqaba and Eilat. To follow up on discussions, the parties will conduct a preliminary site survey in the region in July, 1994. Concurrently, Jordan and Israel will initiate their negotiations on the common boundaries per their common agenda of Sept. 14, 1993.

The three sides agreed to convene an experts' level meeting in the region to discuss cooperation on civil aviation. This, too, is projected for July, 1994.

In addition, Israel and Jordan, following consultations held on the occasion of the trilateral meeting, reached a number of understandings in the context of bilateral negotiations leading to a Treaty of Peace, as stipulated in the Israeli-Jordanian Common Agenda, as follows:

A. The two sides have concluded subagendas in the fields of water, energy and the environment and security, borders and territorial matters.

B. Agreement was reached to set up a Commission on Boundaries, Security, Water and the Environment and Related Issues, and relevant subcommittees on each item, to discuss the sub-agendas and other matters as agreed.

C. The other parts of the common agenda will then be negotiated.

D. Meanwhile, negotiations on economic matters will continue, in order to prepare for future bilateral cooperation.

E. The results of the negotiations will be incorporated into drafts which will form parts of a Treaty of Peace.

F. The negotiations on the above will take place in the region, starting in July, 1994.

Cabinet undergoes major reshuffle

(Continued from page 1)

affairs of the government while Dr. Majali will be mainly involved in handling the Kingdom's foreign policy at a time when fast and substantive progress is expected to be made in the peace process.

The most important feature of the new Cabinet, observers said, is the inclusion of deputies whom Dr. Majali excluded from his previous Cabinet.

Sources said the decision to bring in legislators was made late Tuesday after Mr. Hindawi pushed for their inclusion.

Well-informed parliamentary sources said, however, that Dr. Majali brought in the deputies on the personal merits and not as representatives of their blocks. This, they said, will weaken the blocks and produce major changes to their composition and performance.

Of the 10 deputies who joined the Cabinet, Aref Bataineh, Saleh Irshaidat and Samir Kassar belong to the Progressive Democratic Coalition (PDC), Rafeh Al Soud, Tawfeeq Kreishan, Abdul Baqi Jammo and Hashem Al Dabbas are members of the National Action Front (NAF).

Ibrahimi begins Yemeni mission

(Continued from page 1)

who are called upon to cooperate with each other and help us put Yemen back on the road to stability," Mr. Ibrahimi told the northern SABA news agency.

U.N. spokesman in Yemen Nejb Frijji told reporters later that Mr. Ibrahimi had lunch with Foreign Minister Mohammad Salem Bassandawa, during which the U.N. envoy focused on the "tragic situation" in Aden.

Mr. Ibrahimi was due to hold talks with acting Prime Minister Mohammad Said Al Attar and other government ministers later Wednesday.

The U.N. envoy is to meet President Saleh on Thursday, Frijji said.

Sanaa had agreed to observe a ceasefire in hostilities which broke out on May 5 from midnight on Monday, but it collapsed only hours later.

President Saleh meanwhile ruled out dialogue with Mr. Beidh to end the war.

"There is no dialogue with those who led the country to war. They will have either to surrender or to leave the country," he told a news conference shortly before Mr. Ibrahimi arrived.

Mr. Saleh said he was prepared for dialogue with what he called "unionist" elements in Mr. Beidh's Yemen Socialist Party.

Mr. Beidh declared on May 21 that the south had seceded from the four-year union of the formerly separate North and South Yemen. War broke out on May 4 after almost a year of differences between Mr. Beidh and Mr. Saleh.



His Majesty King Hussein with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid at the swearing in of the new ministers (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

headed by Abdul Hadi Majali from Al Ahd Party, and Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh and Mohammed Thweib belong to the Jordan National Alliance. Mansour Ben Tarif is a member of the Islamist Independent Parliamentary Bloc. The Islamic Action Front (IAF) will remain in the opposition.

Sources said that the NAF could also count on Abdullah Al Jazi, minister of state who is affiliated to Al Ahd Party.

"Dr. Majali negotiated with the deputies as individuals and selected them by name," a parliamentary source said, adding that this amounted to a circumvention of the parliamentary blocs.

Another parliamentary source said members of the blocs had an agreement not to join the Cabinet unless they were approached as blocs but this was not how Dr. Majali negotiated with the lawmakers.

Accordingly, said a prominent member of the House, the tension that had existed between the government and the House is likely to continue.

This tension, however, is not likely to be very tangible until the House convenes in its second ordinary session in December, the source said on condition of anonymity.

Informed sources confirmed that prominent Deputy Abdul Karim Kabari turned down an offer to take over the key foreign ministry portfolio and Deputy Awad Khleifat refused to join the cabinet as well.

Sources also said political advisor to King Hussein Marwan Al Qasem turned down an offer to join as deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

But observers agreed that Dr. Majali has injected his Cabinet with strong political personalities who will improve its performance and lessen opposition to it.

They said that the composition of the Cabinet seeks to maintain a balance among the different parliamentary trends by including members of the various blocs though they were chosen as individuals. They also note that the Cabinet tried to include a balanced representation of the various regions, with three West Bankers, for example, departing the Cabinet and three joining it, five ministers from the north leaving and two ministers from Salt replacing the two who left the government.

No change occurred in the key portfolios of interior, information, finance and trade and industry. A new portfolio, the Ministry of State for Administrative Development, which will be headed by Islamist Mohammed Theibat, was created.

Dr. Majali, who will have

one deputy in the new Cabinet instead of two, retained the portfolios of foreign affairs and defence.

The government is not constitutionally required to have a vote of confidence from the House since the new ministers came in through a reshuffle and not a complete change of the government and its head.

Shortly after the new ministers were sworn in before the King, the full Cabinet met under the chairmanship of Dr. Majali, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Dr. Majali welcomed the new ministers and expressed hope that their experience would be beneficial to the government and the Cabinet would work as a team with full cooperation among its members.

He said the inclusion of deputies in the Cabinet was aimed at "enhancing relations between the legislative and executive authorities" and expressed hope that the deputies/ministers "will play a basic role" in unifying the views of the two authorities.

Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

over how funds should be channelled to the PLO. Donors prefer to go through the World Bank, while the PLO wants direct funding.

Mr. Arafat tied the outcome of the Paris conference to his awaited arrival in the autonomous areas of Gaza and Jericho.

"How can I enter my country when the money situation is terrible," he asked. "I have to have something in hand to lift the burden off my struggling people."

He insisted that Jerusalem would become the undivided capital of an independent Palestinian state.

A revised operating budget, to be presented to the Paris donors meeting and made available to Reuters in Tunis, but the cost of administration self-rule in 1994 at \$176 million, including \$50 million for the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) helping run education and health.

ILO calls for workers rights to have bigger role

GENEVA (R) — The International Labour Organisation (ILO) kicked off its 75th annual meeting Tuesday by calling for workers' rights to have a bigger place in global decisions on trade and economics.

South Africa, readmitted to the United Nations agency just two weeks after its first all-race elections in April, participated in an ILO meeting for the first time in 30 years.

Michel Hansenne, ILO director-general, set the tone by saying protection of workers' basic social rights had to remain the top priority for the 171-member body.

He urged closer ties be forged between ILO and major U.N. financial and economic bodies such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Trade Organisation (WTO) so as to ensure labour issues are at centre stage in economic decisions.

"A multilateral approach must, in a clear way, pursue the double objectives of improving respect for workers' rights and promoting social progress worldwide, which implies the right to development of all," he said in a speech.

"I think the moment has come to knit closer, solid links between these institutions," he added. "One cannot envisage social progress outside of economic and financial policies."

The United States and France have called for improved labour standards worldwide, backing WTO sanctions against countries who employ child or forced labour to produce cheaper goods.

Mr. Hansenne, a Belgian, and other top ILO officials have been advocating WTO trade sanctions if a country fails to honour three basic conditions — the right to organise trade unions, collective bargaining and prohibition of forced labour.

The ILO, IMF, World Bank and WTO, due to come into being next January, could draw up annual recommendations to ministers to "ensure the best functioning of the world economy with the aim of well-being for the greatest number," Mr. Hansenne said.

An ILO source told Reuters: "We expect a strong resistance from developing countries on the so-called social clause."

"The Asians do not even want to hear about it," she added. Labour ministers from the six member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) last month criticised linking workers' rights with trade pacts and urged the ILO to take into account "special circumstances" in the developing world.

Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand attacked developed nations for trying to impose their system of labour relations and standards on poorer countries.

ASEAN members also charged they would be denied access to lucrative Western markets — a form of protectionism.

About 2,000 delegates are attending the 17-day talks in Geneva on employment work-

ers' rights, child labour, and on an ILO plan for creating jobs in the Arab occupied territories.

Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, Swiss economics minister, called in a speech for the ILO to continue its mission of social justice.

"The new international division of labour, putting workers from all regions of the world into direct competition, must be the occasion for ILO to be a strong international organisation which rigorously watches over harmonisation of work and social security conditions in the world," he stressed.

"The accent must be placed on labour norms linked to trade to begin a dialogue with the world trade organisation (WTO)," he pointed out.

Charles Gray, director of international relations for the American trade union group AFL-CIO, was elected president of the session, being held through June 24, officials said.

It was the first time in 25 years a trade union official was elected president, a post usually held by an employer.

Zimbabwe's Labour Minister John Nkomo, chairman of the ILO's governing council, opened the conference with a moving tribute to Pretoria's rejoining of the ranks of the ILO.

ILO member governments next week are due to rescind the 1964 declaration on action against apartheid, which called for dismantling racist policies and for a special annual report.

It was adopted four months after South Africa withdrew from ILO.

IMF considering facility to fight runaway speculation

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is considering a new financing arrangement to help countries that find their economies overwhelmed by market speculation, IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus said Tuesday.

Mr. Camdessus, in a wide-ranging discussion with an economic group, said that such an arrangement, called a facility, could be beneficial to the economic system in general, including the industrial countries.

"We are considering... the establishment of a last-disbursing, very short-term facility, which would help cushion the reserves of countries suddenly subjected to bursts of speculation in spite of policies that fund surveillance has found appropriate," Mr. Camdessus said.

The European Monetary System unravellled in 1992 and 1993 as market speculators virtually forced countries to devalue their currencies and sent tremors throughout the monetary system.

More recently, Mexico's stock markets plummeted following the assassination of presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio in March and was bolstered by a line of credit by the Federal Reserve and the U.S. Treasury.

Mr. Camdessus, who gave no indication whether such a facility would eventually be approved, made clear the monetary system has stabilised with relatively low inflation and that this might be an opportunity to at least consider a system of currency pegging.

But he conceded such an approach might be premature since the spasms of the Euro-

pean system following the break-up of the system of coordinated exchange rates are still fresh in the minds of many policy-makers.

Mr. Camdessus argued currency levels among the major countries are probably at or near their appropriate levels in relation to each other and inflation is at the lowest level in a generation.

"It is clear that in some important respects conditions are more propitious than for some time for the establishment of some form of pegging arrangement among major currencies," he said.

Under such an approach countries would agree to establish a target range for their currencies and move to support these levels while working to improve economic cooperation in general.

Monetary sources said it was clear from Mr. Camdessus' statement the official would propose the market speculation fighting facility when the IMF and World Bank hold their annual meetings in Madrid in September.

In his remarks to the Institute for International Economics, Mr. Camdessus noted recent facilities to help poor developing countries as well as the so-called Systemic Transformation Facility, a pool of funds to help countries of the former Soviet Union and others adjust to a market system, had been successful.

"These adaptations, called for by changing needs of the times and of the fund's expanding membership, have been vindicated by the successes to which they have contributed," he said.

OECD jobs report opens 'rich and poor' debate

PARIS (R) — The OECD Tuesday published a checklist of remedies for unemployment, including proposals to dilute minimum wages and cut jobless benefits, setting off a passionate debate over the widening gap between rich and poor in the industrialised world.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said its 25 member countries had endorsed the main conclusions of its study on jobs.

But the 60-plus individual proposals in the report left plenty of scope for differences of opinion and interpretation.

"A further cut in benefits or assistance cannot be considered a political option in my opinion," Austria's Labour Minister, Josef Hoesl, told ministers at the OECD's annual meeting here.

"Moreover, it seems as though the significance of the unemployment benefit level as job search incentive is highly overestimated," the Social Democrat minister said.

But British Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Kenneth Clarke told a news conference that the report vindicated the ruling Conservative government's policy of deregulating labour markets.

Back in Britain, the opposition Labour Party accused the Conservatives of "hijacking" the OECD report to boost its campaign ahead of Thursday's European parliamentary elections.

Ministers at the Paris meeting agreed with the think-tank that, with total unemployment in the 25 industrial countries heading for a record 35 million, urgent steps must be taken.

The report urges non-inflationary economic growth, training, flexible working hours and incentives to start businesses.

The OECD, which says its report was written after two years of consultation between both "hard-nosed economists and bleeding hearts" warns against creating poverty traps and unravelling social security.

But diplomats said there was concern that some of the measures advocated could doom unskilled workers to low wages and the long-term unemployed to poverty.

Belgium's Social Christian Finance Minister Philippe Maystadt said the report appeared to imply that structural unemployment of low-skilled workers would inevitably become a residual problem allayed by a "sufficient" social security net.

"I think that this presentation of the facts is fundamentally biased and that, furthermore, it risks provoking social breakdown," he said.

Irish Junior Minister Eithne Fitzgerald said each country must reach its own balance between social protection, including employment protection, and labour market flexibility.

She said reducing the cost of employing people through cutting employers' payroll deductions, as suggested in the report, would be a step in the right direction.

"However, the economic evidence in Ireland suggests that while increasing these costs reduces employment, reducing them achieves more modest results," she said.

The OECD pinpoints the United States for its highly flexible labour market but at the same time notes that some

30 million Americans live below the poverty line.

Labour Secretary Robert Reich conceded that while the U.S. economy was an efficient creator of jobs it was also a source of growing inequality between rich and poor.

But he said there was a middle road to tread between the European welfare state and America's flexible labour markets. This would mean stepping up education investment, adapting job markets and re-vamping the entire basis of welfare, he said.

Britain's Clarke, on the other hand, said a widening of the gap between the highly paid and the poorly paid is inevitable.

The OECD recommended the following plan:

— Macroeconomic policy: Aim for the most rapid cyclical economic growth while keeping the lid on inflation and holding budget deficits in check.

— Research and know-how sharing: Invest in scientific research and make sure firms have access to know-how, both nationally and internationally, while making sure researchers don't lose out to free-loading copycats.

— Flexible working hours: Let workers and employers work out working time that suits them, encourage part-time working and make retirement more flexible. But don't legislate to cut hours in order to ration out work.

— Free enterprise: Make it cheaper and easier to start businesses and help small firms with training, insurance, research, access to credit and so on — without distorting competition.

— Flexible wages and labour costs: Prefer social security benefits to minimum wages and where minimum wages stay, index them on prices not wages and differentiate them by region and age. Cut payroll taxes, especially in Europe, in favour of sales or income taxes.

— Make it easier for firms to renegotiate wages in response to the market.

— Job security: Make it easier to fire people for economic reasons while protecting against unfair dismissal. Allow short-term contracts, with penalties on employers to prevent abuse.

Pacific rim group sees perils for China's booming economy

WASHINGTON (R) — China's booming economy, fast becoming the main engine of growth in the Pacific, is in serious danger of either over-heating or skidding to a halt, an influential Pacific rim group warned in a report Tuesday.

"At a very minimum, the Chinese authorities are running the risk of falling into 'stop and go' policies which from experience is known to inhibit economic efficiency," the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) said in its Pacific economic outlook.

"However, more immediately, there is a risk of serious macroeconomic miscalculation," it pointed out.

The report, drawn up in Kuala Lumpur in March but not released until Tuesday, summarises the findings of government officials and experts from 21 Pacific rim nations.

It said growth around the Pacific rim, which stretches from New Zealand via Japan and the United States to Chile, is expected to surge at a 4.2 per cent rate this year, even faster

than the healthy 3.8 per cent average clip in 1993.

That growth, it said, will come mainly from the booming economic expansion in China, though faster growth in the United States and a long overdue pick-up of activity in the Japanese economy is also likely to help.

But while inflation in the region as a whole is expected to remain cool, in China there is a danger it could reignite this year, with serious repercussions for the region, the report says.

It said price pressures in China are building because of "explosive growth" in investments, chiefly by local and provincial governments. Unless Beijing clamps down on local spending, inflation and the cost of living would increase, sowing the seeds for social unrest, it said.

"On the other hand, a central authority that slams on the monetary brakes can lead to a drastic and unnecessary decline in economic activity — the so-called 'hard landing' scenario," the report said.

"With the Pacific region highly dependent upon the economic outcome in China, there is much concern that an extreme cannot be avoided," it concluded.

The report left unclear when either scenario in China was likely to play itself out. It forecast continued strong economic growth in China this year and next, though slightly below the 13.4 per cent growth rate recorded in 1993.

It also predicted inflation in China may ebb this year if the government is sensible.

Among the other economic powerhouses in the region, U.S. economic growth is likely to slide from its seven per cent peak at the end of last year. The PECC predicted low-inflationary 2.5 per cent growth from mid-1994 to mid-1995, then a rebound.

In Japan, growth is expected to show a lackluster 1.1 per cent performance this year — an improvement, however, on the stagnant pace of growth in 1993.

Among its other anxieties, the PECC said trade tensions between the United States and Japan could reverberate around the region.

World Bank: Indonesia risking financial crisis

JAKARTA (AFP) — The World Bank is advising extreme caution in how Indonesia manages its huge \$90 billion foreign debt, and is prescribing draconian measures to shore up the country's weak banking sector.

According to the bank's annual report on Indonesia, the country's external debt reached \$93 billion by the end of 1993, up from \$84.4 billion the year before and \$75.9 billion in 1991.

Despite a healthy trade surplus of \$4.7 billion for the fiscal year 1993-94, which ended March 31, Indonesia had a current-account deficit of \$3.1 billion which amounted to 2.1 per cent of GNP. The deficit was 19 per cent larger than the one posted in 1992-93.

The reason: The prolonged slump in oil and gas prices, whose revenues dropped to \$9.3 billion in 1993-94 from 10.5 billion the year before.

The World Bank praises Indonesia's government for having kept public-sector borrowing to \$1.2 billion, vetted by newly formed "Collateral Offshore Loans Teams."

Unfortunately, said the bank, the depreciation of the U.S. dollar public debt, nearly half of which is denominated in the Japanese currency.

For every 10 per cent appreciation of the yen, Indonesia's debt expressed in dollar terms increases \$160 million.

Foreign exchange reserves stand at \$12.7 billion, worth almost five months of imports. The bank recommends less emphasis on beefing up currency reserves, and more on devising alternatives to the export of oil and gas.

As to the banking sector, it notes government measures taken since June 1993 to improve supervision, and says Indonesia's finance ministry has caught those held responsible for the recent scandal at the state-owned Indonesia Development Bank (BAPINDO).

The World Bank courts in

Indonesia. Industrialist Eddy Tansil and several others are accused of swindling BAPINDO out of \$450 million as a result of bad loans centered on an non-reimbursed letter of credit.

Most of the accused in the case have testified that three former government ministers, including former finance minister Johannes Sumartono, had recommended they deal with Tansil. None of the former ministers has been charged.

But the World Bank says "the deterioration of some banks could still generate problems."

Among its "several important principles" in restoring a bank's viability, the World Bank highlights "liquidating collateral, publicising the names of debtors who refuse to settle, and prosecuting any fraud or other criminal behaviour."

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

Training Course sponsored by Christian Dior in Jordan

Christian Dior, the world's famous company, has organised a training course for employees specialising in selling cosmetics and scents under the supervision of the world famous beautician, Miss Catherine R. and under the management of Astra for Trade Agencies.

Participants in the two day training course, held at the Amman Marriott Hotel, were trained in methods of marketing and in skin care with the use of cosmetics that have been recently put on the market including C. Dior slimming cream Dior Svelte which has yielded wonderful results in a relatively very short time.

Horoscope not received

THE Daily Crossword by Joan O. Barbrich

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen

Peanuts

Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RYRUH
TOSoy
REFRET
DULSHO

Print answer here: " " " " " "

Yesterday's Jumbles: OFTEN PRIZE VOLUME HATUS
Answer: How they described their comical adventure — "LOST IN THE MAIZE"

مكتبة من اجل

Rwanda talks begin despite fighting

KIGALI (R) — Rwanda army and rebel commanders opened a third round of ceasefire talks in Kigali Wednesday as their gunners battled across the divided capital.

U.N. force commander Major-General Romeo Dallaire chaired ceasefire talks at U.N. headquarters between rebel Colonel Frank Mugambage and army Brigadier-General Marcel Gatsinzi.

"We hope to start on the ceasefire negotiations today," Col. Mugambage told reporters shortly before the talks, adding that the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) also hoped to receive answers from the army on its concerns.

Gen. Dallaire is pushing both sides to agree to a U.N.-drafted truce so an international relief effort to help millions of homeless can start in earnest and U.N. forces can be reinforced to protect thousands of civilians and escort aid convoys.

An estimated 500,000 people have perished in mass killings and fighting that engulfed the central African nation following the assassination of President Juvenal Habyarimana on April 6.

The RPF simultaneously launched a renewed offensive from the north in a civil war that began in 1990 and it now has the upperhand in fighting around the capital and further south.

A U.N. military spokesman said battles overnight concentrated on the poor southwestern suburb of Nyamirambo, where rebels seized the Islamic Cultural Centre Tuesday. He said government troops

and militiamen tried to dislodge the rebels from the centre but failed and withdrew. RPF rebels exchanged fire with government troops in several other areas of the divided city overnight using artillery, mortars, anti-aircraft guns, snipers and heavy machineguns.

The military spokesman said government forces counter-attacked near Gitarama, 40 kilometres southwest of Kigali, and Shyamba, 28 kilometres northwest of the capital but were forced to withdraw with a number of casualties.

He said the bulk of forces involved in the limited counter-offensive were pro-government militiamen. RPF forces remained three kilometres southwest of Gitarama, threatening the town which the interim government fled to in April after a week of renewed civil war with the rebels.

Four bullets struck U.N. headquarters in the rebel-held east of Kigali Tuesday evening but no one was hurt in what the spokesman said was a deliberate attack by unidentified gunmen.

RPF rebel commander Major-General Paul Kagame said Monday he was waiting to receive assurances from the army at the talks of an end to massacres by troops and militiamen and radio broadcasts urging the killing minority Tutsis.

Aid workers estimate that most of the victims of massacres are Tutsis, the backbone of the RPF.

"We are ready for talks to discuss the ceasefire but we are

also determined to tell the other side that they should show some significant change and there are some things to address if the ceasefire is to have any meaning," Gen. Kagame told reporters.

U.N. officials doubt the RPF will agree to peace until it has secured its aim of breaking the army's ability to fight.

The RPF condemns the government formed entirely from Rwanda's Hutu majority shortly after the president's killing as a "clique of killers" and refuses to negotiate with it.

A convoy of trucks with fuel and food for the U.N. peacekeeping force in Rwanda left neighbouring Uganda Wednesday and will arrive in Kigali Thursday, officials said. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) chief delegate in Rwanda Philippe Gaillard said Tuesday more than 700 orphans and abandoned children were driven out of Rwanda to neighbouring Burundi in convoys Sunday and Monday night.

Rwanda shot back to the top of the OAU agenda in Tunis Tuesday after being briefly eclipsed the previous day by South Africa, amid a widening split between French and English-speaking countries over who represents the war-torn country.

Two rival delegations are in Tunis each claiming to represent Rwanda. One is from the beleaguered interim government made up mainly of ethnic Hutus and the other from the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front rebel movement which is close to capturing the capital, Kigali.

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) director of information Ibrahim Dagga said at a press conference Tuesday that the interim government delegation led by Foreign Minister Jerome Bimumpaka presently occupied the seats reserved for Rwanda.

But he said the ministerial council had not yet made a final decision on which of the two would represent Rwanda.

Meanwhile, three more African countries pledged to contribute a total of about 400 troops to the U.N. mission.

Spokesman Fred Eckhard said the troops will come from Congo, Nigeria and Mali, each providing an infantry company for the mission to Rwanda.

Ghana, Ethiopia, Senegal and Zimbabwe have already pledged to each send a battalion of about 800 soldiers.

The U.N. Security Council has authorised the dispatch of 5,500 peacekeepers to Rwanda, but pledges up to now have amounted to slightly more than half that number.

Mr. Eckhard said discussions were continuing with South Africa, which could provide armoured vehicles and a field hospital. Namibia has pledged to provide about \$500,000, but will not send troops, the spokesman said.

The United States has pledged to provide 50 transport vehicles and France has agreed to provide equipment for Senegalese troops.

U.S. President Bill Clinton earlier Tuesday ruled out sending U.S. troops to Rwanda but said Washington would offer funds and other logistical assistance.



Residents of Irianda, a small village in southeastern Colombia, gather on a basketball court near the only two houses remaining in town after a mud avalanche (left)

destroyed the town. Town survivors say over 100 residents are missing and feared dead. (AFP photo)

Colombia avalanche claims 100 lives

TOEZ, Colombia (AP) — An earthquake unleashed an avalanche that roared down the slopes of a 3,900-metre-high volcano, burying at least 100 people in ice, mud and rocks.

"It's a tragedy on a grand scale," Julio Enrique Ortiz, government of Huila State, told Caracol Radio Tuesday after flying over the site in a helicopter. "The village of Toez has disappeared."

The U.S. Geological Survey said the Monday afternoon quake, which had a preliminary magnitude of 6.4, was the strongest in Colombia since one measuring 6.8 on May 24, 1957.

In the first chaotic hours after the disaster, Mr. Ortiz estimated there were 500 people missing in Toez, which is at

the foot of the volcano. But at nightfall, police at the scene said some 150 people were missing. Other officials said the missing numbered only about two dozen.

Toez was buried by debris that tumbled down the slopes of Nevado Del Huila volcano. At least 64 of the dead were from Toez, said Gen. Jose Serrano, a commander of the National Police.

A day after the disaster, all that remained of Toez were three wrecked homes and bulldozed groups of extremely frightened people. The hundreds of homes that had stood here before were completely buried by mud, rocks and other avalanche debris. Dead cows were strewn about.

As helicopters carrying aid

workers and journalists landed, survivors crept down from high ground around their destroyed village and begged to be taken away. There was only so much room in the choppers. Thousands in this village and several other wrecked ones would have to fend for themselves for the night.

Aftershocks continued Tuesday and residents feared another avalanche.

Thirty-six people died in other villages that were hit by the avalanche, Miguel Munoz, director of the regional prosecutor-general's office, told Caracol Radio. The office is responsible for investigating deaths.

Civil Defence authorities said at least 2,000 people were made homeless by the disaster.

China slams U.S. 'double standards' on rights

BEIJING (R) — Beijing Wednesday attacked what it called double standards in a U.S. report that alleged widespread human rights abuses in China.

The quasi-official China Society for Human Rights Studies slammed as "fabrications" much of the State Department's human rights report on China for 1993, which was issued in February and forms a basis for U.S. policy decisions.

In a report excerpted by the official Xinhua News Agency, the society attacked many U.S. allegations, particularly those concerning prisoners, women and China's poor, who it said actually enjoyed fuller rights than their U.S. counterparts.

It was not immediately known what prompted the society to issue its report this week.

The report criticised Washington for failing to note that under communism China's people had "completely rid themselves of the previous situation in which they were bullied and trampled upon by others and were deprived of human rights."

"These basic facts and favourable development trends were not given an objective and fair appraisal by the U.S. State Department's human rights report," it said.

"On the contrary, it relied on hearsay and especially believed rumours and slanders spread by a few persons who vainly attempted to subvert the Chinese government and overthrow China's socialist system," it said.

The society called the U.S. report a "patchwork of allegations" riddled with "dual criteria" — particularly regarding law.

It defended China's controversial "counter-revolution" statute, used to imprison thousands of citizens for criticising Communist rule following the military suppression of the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989.

It said the counter-revolution law, rather than being a tool to silence dissidents, was no different from sedition laws used by the United States and other countries "to deal with criminal activities that endanger the security of the state and society," it said.

"For example... the U.S. code explicitly prohibits rebellion, revolt, rioting, instigating riots or advocating the overthrow of the government," it said, citing articles 2383 and 2385 of the U.S. criminal code.

"Since the United States enacts strict controls and punishment of anti-government activities, what right does the U.S. State Department have to charge China with punishing criminals who endanger the security of the state?" it said.

Akashi proposes shorter ceasefire for Bosnia

GENEVA (R) — U.N. envoy Yasushi Akashi tried to salvage negotiations for a Bosnia-wide ceasefire Wednesday by proposing a dramatically shorter truce than previously envisaged, diplomats said.

The proposal was welcomed by Bosnia's Muslim and Croat allies but quickly dismissed by Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

In two days of negotiations, Mr. Akashi had been pressing for a four-month cessation of hostilities during which time the factions could conclude an overall political settlement.

But late Tuesday night, Mr. Akashi issued a revised proposal for a four-week ceasefire that could be renewed for a further four weeks if it held.

The new proposal was welcomed as "very constructive" by Bosnian Vice-President Ejup Ganic, representing Bosnia's new Muslim-Croat Federation, as he arrived for what was meant to be a final meeting with Mr. Akashi.

The federation has been pressing for a shorter ceasefire because it fears a longer cessation of hostilities, in which thousands of U.N. peacekeepers would be deployed along front lines, would effectively freeze Serb military gains.

But Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic, who had accepted Mr. Akashi's original proposal of a four-month ceasefire, was scornful of the new suggestion.

"This is merely a ceasefire. We've had many, many ceasefires that didn't work," Mr. Karadzic told reporters before

a separate meeting with Mr. Akashi.

"We are here to negotiate a (longer) cessation of hostilities. A ceasefire can be agreed at Sarajevo airport," Mr. Karadzic's deputy, Nikola Komoljic, told reporters the compromise would not be acceptable and said the Serbs would be sticking by a major power statement last month calling for a full four-month cessation of hostilities.

Major power ministers, including U.N. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev agreed the ceasefire period in a meeting in Geneva on May 13.

The major powers said they hoped four months would give its "contact group" on Bosnia enough time to persuade the factions to agree a Bosnian carve-up.

Diplomats pointed out that Mr. Akashi's original proposal for a four-month ceasefire had only just been publicly endorsed by U.S. President Bill Clinton when it was drastically rewritten.

Before Wednesday's meetings Mr. Akashi seemed to have little hope that a ceasefire could be concluded in Geneva. He checked out of his hotel and said he expected to end the negotiations and reconvene them in Sarajevo in the coming days.

After remarking Tuesday that only a miracle could salvage the talks, Mr. Akashi confessed: "I am not a miracle worker."

OAS endorses tough sanctions on Haiti

BELEM DO PARA, Brazil (AFP) — The Organisation of American States, endorsing tough sanctions on Haiti, said that military intervention should not be ruled out in to drive the military from power in Port-au-Prince.

A resolution approved by the OAS calls for compliance with a U.N. embargo tightened on May 21 to suspend private air flights, freeze the assets outside Haiti of military officers and suspending international financial transactions with Haiti.

The resolution acknowledging possible military action is unusual for the OAS since it is dominated by Latin American and Caribbean nations stung by memories of U.S. intervention in the past century and reluctant to violate the sovereignty of a member nation.

The United States, Canada and Argentina prevailed to win a resolution, leaving invasion as an option, in lengthy negotiations at the 24th OAS General Assembly here. The assembly began Monday.

In Washington, meanwhile, U.S. officials said a Western Hemisphere peacekeeping force is being prepared for Haiti to maintain order after military leaders step down.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said several countries had offered

to contribute troops to the force, but that some countries said they would do so only if the Haitian generals left voluntarily. The mission would be under U.N. auspices.

The OAS resolution calls on member countries to back a U.N. technical mission that was supposed to have gone to Haiti last year to train police and military troops under an agreement signed in July to restrain exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide who was ousted in 1991.

"It is a victory for the United States because even though there is no support or even any mention of an intervention, it is not ruled out," a diplomat told AFP.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said Monday that the United States preferred to resolve the crisis peacefully, although an invasion or other use of force was not ruled out.

In Port-Au-Prince, Haiti's army-backed government warned Robert Malval, head of government for Mr. Aristide, that he could be arrested for treason.

Mr. Malval, who is recognised internationally as Haiti's prime minister but has no real power, had said in a radio interview Monday that Haitians "would be more likely to welcome invaders than fight them."

Filipino gunmen kill 15 captives

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (Agencies) — Muslim gunmen fleeing a massive army operation executed 15 of 20 people they were holding hostage in the southern island of Basilan Wednesday, a military report said.

A duty officer at southern military command headquarters in this southern city said the report was relayed by a Marine brigade operating in the Basilan area.

Radio and television reports put the death toll at 17. There are no telephone lines to Basilan and the reports of the killings could not be independently confirmed and details were sketchy.

A police officer at the regional police headquarters in Zamboanga also told AFP he received a similar report about the killings.

The captives were among 52 people, mostly school teachers, abducted near Basilan's capital of Isabela earlier Wednesday. Thirty-two were freed about an hour after they were seized.

In Isabela, Denny Abellana, 15, who claimed to be a survivor, told reporters from his hospital bed that Muslim gunmen separated male captives from the women. Their hands were tied up and were made to line up, after which the gunmen opened fire on them.

Abellana, who is recovering from a gunshot wound in the right leg, said he pretended to be dead until the gunmen left.

Police earlier confirmed that the kidnappers were allies of Abu Sayyaf, an Islamic fundamentalist group.

British diplomats said earlier that David Housego, Kim's father, received a note written

12th body found in 'house of horror' case

LONDON (R) — British police said Wednesday they had discovered a 12th set of remains in the "house of horror" serial killing case.

The remains — little more than bones and teeth — were found in a remote field in Gloucestershire, western England, where searches have been digging for two months.

A Gloucester builder, 52-year-old Frederick West, has been charged with 11 murders in the case, including those of his former wife and two of their daughters. His present wife Rosemary has been charged with nine of the murders.

Most of the badly decomposed bodies were found in the garden or under the floors of

the house — quickly dubbed the "house of horror" by newspapers — where the Wests lived in with several of their children. Others were found in a previous residence or in the field.

Police spokeswoman Hilary Allison said a government pathologist had confirmed the remains were human Tuesday night. He was now working to try to identify them.

Local residents say they believe the remains are those of Anna McCall, 22, who worked as a nanny for the Wests.

Ms. Allison said this could not be immediately confirmed. Police were in the meantime starting to dig a short distance away in the same field, known

as Finger Post Field.

"It's only small and it shouldn't take as long to search," she said in a telephone interview. "It was brought to our attention by local people as an area of concern."

Police, who started digging in the Wests' home in February, virtually excavated the entire garden before they finished. They started digging in the field near kempley in April and have created a buge pit eight feet (2.5 metres) deep and piled up more than 2,800 tonnes of earth.

Prosecutors say they may be ready to set a trial date when the Wests next appear in court on June 30.

Kashmir group kidnaps 2 Britons

SRINAGAR, India (Agencies) — A Kashmiri militant group admitted Wednesday that it had kidnapped two Britons in India's strife-torn Himalayan region this week.

The Harakatul Ansar Group said in a statement delivered to the Renter office in Srinagar that it had kidnapped 16-year-old Kim Housego, son of a British businessman, and video director David Mackie, 36, Monday.

"It is not true that we have abducted them to secure the release of our three leaders," the group said. "We have abducted them to highlight the human-rights abuse (by Indian troops) in Kashmir."

The Britons were kidnapped Monday during a trekking holiday near Pahalgam, 50 kilometres south east of Kashmir's summer capital, Srinagar.

British diplomats said earlier that David Housego, Kim's father, received a note written

in Urdu saying the two Britons would be released only if three guerrillas of the Harakatul Ansar Group were freed from Indian jails within a week.

The group's handwritten statement in Urdu warned the Indian government against using force to free the Britons, saying the captives could get killed in a crossfire.

"We warn the government not to repeat the mistake which it committed in the case of Major Bhupinder Singh," the statement said.

Maj. Singh, an officer with the Indian Border Road Organisation, was kidnapped by Ansar earlier this year. The group says he was killed when the Indian army attacked their hideout.

"So we warn the government beforehand. If they repeat their earlier mistake the responsibility will be theirs," Ansar said.

Pakistan, condemning the abduction of the two British

nationals in Indian-held Kashmir, Wednesday demanded their unconditional release.

The foreign office here also denied that the abductors had links with Pakistan, recalling "rumours in New Delhi" that the drama could have been staged by some Indian agents.

Expressing "deep regrets" over the incident, a Foreign Office spokesman here told a briefing that "Pakistan has always condemned acts of terrorism regardless of their motivation."

Consistent with this policy "the government of Pakistan strongly urges that the British nationals be released forthwith without any condition," the spokesman said.

"At the same time we urge the government of India to end repression and release all Kashmiri leaders, freedom fighters and journalists arrested for expressing the true feelings of the Kashmiri people," he added.

Alarming rise in U.S. college drinking

WASHINGTON (R) — "startling" increase in the number of college women who drink heavily is leading to an increase in sexually transmitted diseases including AIDS, a study said. The study by the Commission on Substance Abuse at Colleges and Universities "found evidence of a startling increase in the number of college women who drink to get drunk, placing them at high risk for AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted sexual relations and unplanned pregnancies."

Some 35 per cent of college women say they drink to get drunk, compared to 10 per cent in 1977, the study said. It said drinking by both college women and men has other serious consequences for women as well. Ninety per cent of campus rapes occur when alcohol is being used by either the assailant, the victim or both, the study said. Some 60 per cent of college women who have AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases were under the influence of alcohol at the time of infection, it said.

The incidence of AIDS among college women is now one in 700, compared to one in 200 for men, the study said. But if the current trends continue the rate among college women will eventually surpass the incidence among men, it said. Drinking is also behind more crime on campus and responsible for poor academic achievement, the study said. It said 95 per cent of violent crimes on campus and 53 per cent of injuries were alcohol-related.

Civil Defence authorities said at least 2,000 people were made homeless by the disaster.

Police, who started digging in the Wests' home in February, virtually excavated the entire garden before they finished. They started digging in the field near kempley in April and have created a buge pit eight feet (2.5 metres) deep and piled up more than 2,800 tonnes of earth.

Prosecutors say they may be ready to set a trial date when the Wests next appear in court on June 30.

Pierce Brosnan seen as new Bond star

LONDON (R) — British newspapers Wednesday tipped Irish actor Pierce Brosnan as the man who will take over as James Bond in the next film about the fictional spyspy.

The film company behind the movies about Agent 007 is due to reveal its choice later Wednesday. But tabloid newspapers said Brosnan had accepted the role after secretly jetting into London for last minute talks. Despite being told to stay out of sight, Brosnan was spotted dining out with his step-daughter Monday night, they said. Brosnan, who was offered the role before and turned it down due to prior television commitments, will replace Timothy Dalton who quit earlier this year to concentrate on other roles. The next, as-yet untitled, film about the suave, martini-drinking spy will be the 17th made by American producer Cubby Broccoli since 1962. The Bond films have earned a record \$1 billion worldwide, turning the first Bond, British actor Sean Connery, and his successor Roger Moore into huge stars. George Lazenby also had a brief stint in the role.

Consistent with this policy "the government of Pakistan strongly urges that the British nationals be released forthwith without any condition," the spokesman said.

"At the same time we urge the government of India to end repression and release all Kashmiri leaders, freedom fighters and journalists arrested for expressing the true feelings of the Kashmiri people," he added.

The OAS resolution calls on member countries to back a U.N. technical mission that was supposed to have gone to Haiti last year to train police and military troops under an agreement signed in July to restrain exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide who was ousted in 1991.

"It is a victory for the United States because even though there is no support or even any mention of an intervention, it is not ruled out," a diplomat told AFP.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said Monday that the United States preferred to resolve the crisis peacefully, although an invasion or other use of force was not ruled out.

In Port-Au-Prince, Haiti's army-backed government warned Robert Malval, head of government for Mr. Aristide, that he could be arrested for treason.

Mr. Malval, who is recognised internationally as Haiti's prime minister but has no real power, had said in a radio interview Monday that Haitians "would be more likely to welcome invaders than fight them."

Police earlier confirmed that the kidnappers were allies of Abu Sayyaf, an Islamic fundamentalist group.

British diplomats said earlier that David Housego, Kim's father, received a note written

in Urdu saying the two Britons would be released only if three guerrillas of the Harakatul Ansar Group were freed from Indian jails within a week.

The group's handwritten statement in Urdu warned the Indian government against using force to free the Britons, saying the captives could get killed in a crossfire.

"We warn the government not to repeat the mistake which it committed in the case of Major Bhupinder Singh," the statement said.

Maj. Singh, an officer with the Indian Border Road Organisation, was kidnapped by Ansar earlier this year. The group says he was killed when the Indian army attacked their hideout.

"So we warn the government beforehand. If they repeat their earlier mistake the responsibility will be theirs," Ansar said.

Pakistan, condemning the abduction of the two British

nationals in Indian-held Kashmir, Wednesday demanded their unconditional release.

The foreign office here also denied that the abductors had links with Pakistan, recalling "rumours in New Delhi" that the drama could have been staged by some Indian agents.

Expressing "deep regrets" over the incident, a Foreign Office spokesman here told a briefing that "Pakistan has always condemned acts of terrorism regardless of their motivation."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Canizales still the best

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas (AFP) — American fighter Orlando Canizales kept his IBF bantamweight crown here Tuesday night after knocking out Filipino challenger Rolando Bobol in the fifth round. The American was in charge of the scheduled 12-round bout from the bells and finished off his opponent with a powerful right and then a left into the face. It was Canizales' 15th title defence and 37th victory in a career which includes only one draw and one defeat. Bobol's record is now 33 wins, 14 defeats and one draw.

Dutch star Roy heads for Nottingham

NOTTINGHAM, England (AFP) — Dutch international Bryan Roy signed for English club Nottingham Forest here Tuesday in a £2.5 million deal. Roy was sold by Italian Club Foggia to Forest, who have just won promotion to the top-flight Premiership division. Roy began his career at Dutch club Ajax. Inter Milan, Parma and Napoli had also expressed an interest in Roy, who joined Foggia from Ajax 18 months ago. But the Dutchman revealed he set his heart on a move to Nottingham as soon as he visited the city ground. "It's a magnificent stadium and I have been enormously impressed by the attitudes shown by people at the club," he said. "It's always been my ambition to play in England."

Brabham to drive Simtek in Canada

BANBURY, England (AFP) — Australia's David Brabham is to drive Simtek's only entry in next Sunday's Canadian Grand Prix at Montreal, the team announced here Tuesday. Following accidents involving Roland Ratzenberger at Imola and Andrea Montenerini at Barcelona, Simtek must build another car before the team can run two drivers again. It is hoped the second car will be completed in time for Frenchman Jean-Marc Gounon to drive it in the French Grand Prix at Magny-Cours July 3. Gounon, who has a minimum eight-race contract with Simtek, failed to finish in either of his two Formula One starts to date — when he substituted for Christian Fittipaldi in a Minardi in both the Japanese and Australian races last year.

Schumacher backs Mansell return

NEW YORK (AFP) — Michael Schumacher backed Nigel Mansell's return to Formula One here Tuesday. The current drivers' world championship leader said it would be "fantastic" if Britain's former world champion returned from IndyCar racing. "He's a great champion. I would really love to fight against him," he said. The German Benetton Ford driver said the sport had changed since Mansell's departure to the United States, where he is the reigning IndyCar champion. But he argued the banning of electronic aids had not been responsible for the deaths of Ayrton Senna and Roland Ratzenberger at Imola.

Inside help seen in soccer robbery

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Whoever broke into Greece's locker room at Giants Stadium while the team played a World Cup tuneup against Colombia had inside help from the Greek delegation, the chairman of World Cup USA 1994 has alleged. Chairman Alan Rothenberg said Monday that a one-day investigation by the best organisation for the World Cup concluded there was neither involvement of security personnel nor negligence on the part of either Giants Stadium or World Cup USA personnel. "We feel with some certainty now that the alleged incident could only have taken place with 'inside' connivance from the (Greek) delegation," Rothenberg said in a statement released late Monday.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMARA HIRSCH
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BAR THE GATES

Both vulnerable. West: 3-1.

NORTH
♠ 4
♥ J 6 3
♦ Q 8 5 2
♣ A Q 8 7 2

EAST
♠ 6 5
♥ A J 10 3
♦ K Q 10 6 5 4 2
♣ 9 7 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 9 7 6 2
♥ A 9 7
♦ J 9
♣ 6

The bidding:
West North East South
2♥ Pass Pass 4♠

Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

If you can't get the job done yourself, enlist the aid of the enemy.

Dutch international Anton Maas showed the way on this hand from a recent team match.

At both tables West opened with a weak two-heart bid and both Souths correctly judged their hand was worth a jump to four spades.

Although the North hand was not all that suitable, the contract was quickly made at one table where the

opening lead was the king of hearts. Declarer won, drew trumps and could lose no more than two diamond tricks and a heart.

When Maas sat South, the defense got off to a more promising start when West chose to attack with the jack of clubs. It might seem that declarer has four unavoidable losers in the red suits. Maas proved that was not the case.

After winning the opening lead with dummy's ace, declarer drew three rounds of trumps, then cashed the ace of hearts, removing East's only card in the suit. Next, Maas found the pretty play of exiting with the jack of diamonds. East won, but was caught in an endplay.

The defender tried to escape by cashing the ace of diamonds and then exiting with the king of clubs. Declarer could not afford to ruff — that would have stranded him with two heart losers. Instead, Maas found the elegant counter of discarding a heart, leaving East on lead. With nothing but minor-suit cards, East was forced to ruff, allowing declarer to discard his remaining heart loser.

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WOMEN'S WORLD BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

United States crush Canada
as Cuba keep hopes alive

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Sheryl Swoopes came off the bench to score a game-high 27 points Wednesday as the United States crushed Canada 98-65 at the women's world basketball championships.

The win lifted the defending champion Americans to a 2-0 record in the quarterfinal round and almost certainly sealed a semifinal berth.

Guard Jennifer Azzi had 17 points and all 12 members of the U.S. squad got on the scoresheet as the five-time world champions scored their fifth straight win of the tournament.

The Americans succeeded with nine of 14 three-point attempts in the first half as the Canadians tried to contain them with a zone defence. "The key was that we started so well," said United States head coach Tara Vanderveer. "Then different people came in and stepped it up."

"It certainly helps if you can get 20 plus points from players off the bench, but strength in depth is a trademark of this team."

Swoopes, a former Olympic tech swimmer, was successful with 10 of 13 attempts from the field, including all three three-pointers, and also pulled down

eight rebounds.

Jodi Evans and Andrea Blackwell each had 11 points for the out-gunned Canadians, who trailed by 46 points towards the end before staging a late recovery.

"The Americans are big, fast, quick and strong and very difficult to match up against," said Canadian coach Kathy Shields, whose team dipped to 0-2 and will almost certainly be eliminated from semifinal contention.

"We hadn't quite recovered psychologically from yesterday's loss to Slovakia."

In the other group 1 match scheduled late Wednesday, Slovakia (1-0) was to face Australia (0-1).

Biosotys Frometa scored all 16 of her points in the second half to lead third-seeded Cuba to a 68-65 victory over Spain in an earlier Group II quarterfinal-round match.

The Cubans kept alive their chances of qualifying for the semifinals by rallying from a 40-27 halftime deficit against the European champion Spaniards.

Frometa, a 24-year-old backup guard who had played only 25 minutes in Cuba's first four games of the tournament, hit five of eight field goal attempts including a three-

pointer and made five of her six free throws.

"That is probably the best I've ever played in an international match," she said. "I'm happy to play my role, but maybe now I'll get some more minutes."

The teams were locked at 65-65 with a 4.4 seconds remaining when Regla Hernandez came up with a three-point play to seal the win. She scored with a lay-up and added the extra point after being fouled by Carolina Mujica.

Spanish playmaker Ana Belen Alvaro, who had a game-high 21 points, launched a long-range shot at the buzzer but it fell short.

Frometa and centre Leonor Hernandez led Cuba with 16 points apiece, while the Cubans out-rebounded Spain 46-22.

Cuba improved its record to 1-1, while Spain dropped to 1-1. Both teams still can advance.

"We had only 16 hours to rest after beating China and my players were very tired both physically and mentally," said Spanish coach Manuel Coloma. "Frometa was very quick and she made a big difference to the Cuban team."



Laudrup heads for Glasgow

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — Danish international striker Brian Laudrup is set to leave Italian club Fiorentina for Scottish giants Glasgow Rangers next season, the Danish football association said Wednesday.

Laudrup, whose brother Michael is leaving Spanish champions Barcelona for Real Madrid, is ready to sign a three-year contract from July 1. The paperwork is now a formality after Fiorentina accepted a £2.2 million offer from Rangers Tuesday night. The 25-year-old striker, capped 46 times for his country, had signed a four-year contract with Fiorentina in 1992.

Bates shocks Becker
at Queen's tourney

LONDON (AFP) — Boris Becker's Wimbledon warm-up was left in tatters here on Tuesday as Jeremy Bates produced a best-of-British performance to dump the German out of the Queen's grass-court tournament.

The 31-year-old, the first Briton to win a top-flight tournament since 1977 after triumphing at Seoul two months ago, beat the triple Wimbledon winner 7-5 7-6 (10-8) in the second-round encounter.

Britain's number one, ranked 94th in the world to Becker's tenth, said: "This is definitely one of the best wins of my career — especially in England. It's the best place to win."

Bates clinched the first set by breaking Becker at 5-5.

Becker began the game with a mis-hit serve which clipped off the top of his frame and just floated over the net but he then produced two double faults and drove a simple volley over the baseline. Bates saved a break point in the next game to serve out for the set.

Bates got to 6-5 and match point in the second set tie-break only to drill a backhand pass into the tramlines.

Becker had a set point at 7-6 but Bates produced a service winner and then a smash to earn a second match point. The world No. 10 served himself out of trouble again,

but a brilliant rasping forehand return from Bates gave him third match point at 9-8 when he duly converted with a booming delivery which Becker pushed into the net.

"The last four or five years, I have played my best tennis," said Bates, the oldest player in the tournament and the third most senior in the world's top 100.

"If you have been living with the pressure of expectancy for as long as I have you just learn how to cope," he added.

Becker was always a vulnerable opponent after he pulled out of the French Open at the 11th hour a fortnight ago with a back injury and then having his grass court practice last week seriously disrupted by the weather.

Bates, who had not taken a set off Becker in four previous meetings, agreed: "If I had a chance to beat him then this was the time to do it."

The 26-year-old Becker said: "He played an excellent match. He didn't give me any points and he played a very solid grass court match."

"Usually he makes an easy mistake when it matters. Sometimes he gets nervous but he kept his cool in the tie-break and he didn't give me a chance to get into the match."

Becker argued, however, that his Wimbledon preparations had not been seriously hampered by the shock defeat.

California World Cup quake plans kept under wraps

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — The planners' nightmare: What happens to the World Cup if a major earthquake hits California before or during the tournament?

The question is no joke, considering that the 1989 baseball world series here between the San Francisco Giants and the Oakland Athletics was hit by a quake.

The answer from World Cup officials, staging the third consecutive World Cup in a seismic zone, is that emergency plans exist to switch matches between venues.

But exact details are hard to obtain.

"Details are not so much elusive," said World Cup press officer Jim Trecker. "We are just not discussing them at this moment. If it's necessary, we will discuss them."

"There's no point in discussing details on thoughts which are nothing but speculation," added Trecker. However, questions have increasingly dogged the California venues since January when a 6.8 quake hit Los Angeles,

killing 60 people and causing up to \$20 billion in damage.

More aftershocks are expected and one expert said last week there was a one-in-three chance of another aftershock in the 5.0 magnitude range within the next year.

Los Angeles hosts the final July 17.

To some it might seem that, in the light of the likely suffering, the fate of a soccer tournament would be the least of worries in the event of natural calamity.

But the cup is the planet's biggest single sports event with an expected television audience of billions.

San Francisco venue press officer Rick La Plante said the plans called for switching stadiums if need be.

"If there were an earthquake in a California venue there are specific plans over which games will be moved where and when," he said in Palo Alto, site of Stanford Stadium.

"We know which games we'd get if there were an earthquake in L.A. and they know which they would get if there

were one up here. I would assume Detroit and Dallas would be involved as well because of the scheduling conflicts."

"They already know which games are going to go where... It's on paper somewhere, it's been mapped out."

Both Los Angeles and San Francisco, the latter devastated by a quake in April 18, 1906 that left fires raging for up to a week afterwards, host first round matches June 26.

The likelihood of both being hit are remote.

"Generally when there's one (quake) that affects southern California it doesn't affect us up here and vice versa," said La Plante. "I got a couple of calls from Brazil after the L.A. quake, asking was Stanford Stadium damaged at all."

"I guess people don't really understand the difference. You look at a map and think it's real close."

Brazil, tipped by many for the championship, will be the undisputed stars at the 86,000 capacity stadium in Palo Alto, 27 miles (43 km) to the south of San Francisco.

The old stadium, essentially bench seats on an enormous earth oval banking, was unscathed in the 1989 Loma Prieta quake that caused considerable damage further north and east and killed 43 people as freeways collapsed.

The city's Candlestick Park was the stadium used for the baseball world series that year and it remained closed for 10 days after the quake hit during the third game.

"It would have been impossible to play on because we had no power," said Giants' media officer Robin Carr.

"This the word was coming in on the radio about bridges being down. We would have cancelled it no matter what because we had no power and it would have been dark," she added.

Carr said the stadium was not seriously damaged and play could have been resumed within a few days.

But, with two local teams involved, the series was postponed until Oct. 27 as a gesture of condolence with those killed or injured elsewhere in the state.

The World Cup would clearly be more mobile.

Willie Banks, deputy executive director of the Los Angeles venue, confirmed Pasadena would backstop San Francisco.

"Of course if it happens in San Francisco they will play the games down here," he said.

"If it happens down here we'll play the games in San Francisco," added Banks, better known to many as the retired but reigning triple jump world record holder.

"That has been the plan all along... perhaps we would have to play the later rounds in New York."

New York's Giants Stadium is the last outside Los Angeles to host a World Cup match with a seatful July 13.

"We would have to rearrange the schedule but we've got New York until the 13th and we could play it within the time period because we've got three rest days built in just in case of emergency," Banks said of the fixture calendar.

"We will have the opportunity to rearrange our schedule. Banks said no stadiums outside those already contracted will be considered or used as emergency venues.

"There's jokingly been some stadiums mentioned but right now we're sticking with the one that we have."

He stressed however that there was little cause for concern. The Pasadena Rose Bowl, in leafy suburbs to the northwest of the city, is built on solid bedrock unlike the city's damaged coliseum and was undamaged in January.

The regular answer to questions, often said with a smile, is that there is not going to be any quake.

Not one that will demolish Pasadena at any rate.

"Downtown L.A. is a tough time ago was a swamp," said Banks. "So when the earth starts shaking you're going to have the coliseum, which is built above ground, shaking like crazy."

The Rose Bowl is on bare rock and if there is any shaking it's going to be the kind you get with a not sand."

Italy's key player does not like the limelight

MILAN, Italy (AP) — For his fans, Roberto Baggio's genius is as great as the talents of renaissance masters.

Some say he could be the miracle-worker of the Italian team in the World Cup, the player whose masterly moves and scoring ability could make the difference between a make feared early elimination and a long dreamed fourth world title for the "Azzurri," as the team is called in Italy.

The 26-year-old forward from Juventus of Turin, the world player of the year in 1993, says he could do without all the attention.

"I don't like the life in the spotlight. But I still love soccer as much as I did when I first kicked a ball," Baggio says. "I only want to play."

Baggio has 109 goals in 219 Italian league games with Fiorentina and Juventus, and 19 goals in 33 games with the national team. Fans in Florence noted after Fiorentina transferred him to Juventus after the 1989-90 season for a record \$26 million. The riots

occurred just before Baggio joined the Azzurri for the 1990 World Cup.

"In 1990, I was very upset and nervous and I joined the team late," Baggio says. "This time I am tranquil. I have been working hard from the beginning of the preparation and I feel strong and determined."

With his ponytail — as popular in Italy as Ruud Gullit's dreadlocks are in the Netherlands — Baggio is the most distinctive player on the team.

He also is the best, and sometimes only, scorer on the Azzurri.

"All players have equal duties and merits, and share the reward and sometimes the blame," he says. "Forwards make the most visible moves as they score goals. But the goalkeepers and defenders are more decisive sometimes."

Baggio is unpredictable both on and off soccer fields. He is a follower of Buddhism in a mostly Roman Catholic country. He has a passion for hunting in a nation of many environmentalists.

His low-profile attitude, his plain speaking and his reluctance to talk with reporters at times has made his relations with Juventus fans sometimes uneasy.

Juventus, the club backed by the Agnelli family that controls Fiat, is one of if not the most popular club in Italy. While it has not won the league since 1986, he helped Juventus win the UEFA Cup in 1993.

Baggio is good with both feet, makes great passes and strikers perfect free-kicks. Often compared to past Juventus hero Michel Platini, Baggio has always refused comparisons, suggesting he's unique.

Of modest build — 1.74 metre and 72 kilograms — Baggio can easily outburble defenders and put the ball just centimetres from the goalkeeper's reach.

He is weak on headers and drives coaches crazy at times by roving to different spots on the field. He sometimes starts at forward and sometimes in the midfield. He's the only player on the Azzurri who is

given some freedom to roam by coach Arrigo Sacchi, who has an obsession for tight schemes and teamwork.

"No doubt he's our best man, who can solve every match," Sacchi says.

Sacchi recently tested Baggio at centre forward in tandem Giuseppe Signori, who led the league this season with 23 goals for Lazio of Rome. Results were successful, but Baggio cautioned it was "an experiment which must be tested against strong opponents."

"I believe that we must adjust our tactics each time we play different opponents," Baggio says. "We studied tapes of Ireland, Norway and Mexico. Ireland is very physical. Norway can be put in trouble with quick actions. Mexico is strong for its teamwork."

Born in the Veneto region, part of a family that included eight children, Baggio lives in Caldogeno, near Vicenza, in a villa neighbouring his parents' house.

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| | Tom Cruise & Holly Hunter in The Firm | | CLASS 1999 '2' | | CONCORD '1' FX - 2 Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' THE GETAWAY Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6, 8:15, 10:15 | | Soon the new play !!! | Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy: "PUNCTURED BAG" | is back to you after performing in Canada as of Wednesday, June 15, 1994 in their play: "What a peace!" 8:00 p.m. |
| | Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00 | | | | | | | | |

NEWS IN BRIEF

King pins the wings on pilots

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday attended the graduation ceremony of Royal Jordanian Air Force (RJAF) pilots at an RJAF base. King Hussein was received at the celebration site by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai and the chief of staff of the air force. The King, who watched exercises performed by the pilots, decorated the graduates with their wings and distributed awards to excellent ones. The ceremony was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, several members of the Upper House of Parliament, the governor of Mafrqa, the chief of staff of the land forces, the director of the Public Security Department, several ambassadors and military attaches, senior army officers and relatives of the graduates.

King receives Algerian message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court on Wednesday Algerian Minister of Reconstruction Sharif Rahmani, who handed him a message from Algerian president Lamine Zaroul. The message dealt with Jordanian-Algerian relations and pan-Arab affairs. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the Algerian ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Rahmani, arrived here earlier Wednesday.

Fateh wins student elections

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The main Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) faction Fateh won a large majority in elections to a student union in the West Bank, a fresh sign it is picking up support among Palestinians after signing a self-rule peace deal with Israel last month. Al Quds newspaper reported on Wednesday Fateh won 10 out of 11 seats on the student council of Al Najah University in the town of Nablus. A block linked to the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas which opposes the peace accord, won the other seat. Fateh had controlled all 11 seats previously but Khalil Shikaki, professor at the university and director of a political research centre, said the result showed the group was reviving popularity that flagged when peace talks dragged on for months. "Actually they were not expected to do so well. They have regained some momentum since signing the agreement last month," he told Reuters. "They are still not at peak levels but for the first time in some months they are gaining ground." Palestinians often look on elections for student and professional unions and other local institutions as barometers of public opinion on national issues like support for the PLO and peace with Israel. In a student election at Bethlehem University last week, a pro-agreement coalition of Fateh and the Palestine People's Party won six seats out of nine, preserving the same majority as before.

Russian military chiefs meet Assad

DAMASCUS (AP) — Russia's top general met President Hafez Al Assad Wednesday at the end of a four-day visit to Damascus to discuss boosting military cooperation, possibly including new arms sales. The Russians, led by Chief of Staff General Mikhail Kolesnikov, flew out of Damascus airport for Moscow immediately after the session with Mr. Assad. Wednesday's meeting was attended by Syria's long-serving chief of staff, Lt-Gen. Hikmat Shehawi, a close associate of Mr. Assad. A presidential statement said Gen. Kolesnikov and Gen. Shehawi briefed Mr. Assad on their discussions on "bilateral cooperation." It gave no other details. But the official Syrian Arab News Agency reported Tuesday after Gen. Kolesnikov met Syrian Defence Minister Lt-Gen. Mustafa Tias for talks that centred on "the friendship and cooperation between the Syrian and Russian armies and ways of improving them."

Clinton urges Algeria to talk to opponents

PARIS (AP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton urged Algeria's embattled rulers on Tuesday to broaden their political base by reaching out to Islamic opponents who reject violence. In a joint television interview with French President Francois Mitterrand, Mr. Clinton confirmed that the United States had held low-level contacts with members of "dissident groups ... who themselves have not been involved in terrorism." U.S. diplomats have met exiled leaders of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) based in Germany and Washington, to the displeasure of France, the former colonial power in Algeria, diplomatic sources said. Mr. Clinton made clear that while he shared Paris' concern at a potential fundamentalist takeover spreading unrest in the Muslim World, Washington was not opposed to some power-sharing between the army-backed regime and peaceful Islamic political groups. "We share the concern for the potential of the situation in Algeria getting out of hand," Mr. Clinton said.

Bhutto unveils Indian 'conspiracy'

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Wednesday accused neighbouring India for hatching a conspiracy to trigger unrest in Pakistan for its support of the Kashmir cause, official sources here said. The government has secured "undeniable proof of a conspiracy hatched by an inimical neighbouring country to inject or hire the services of some saboteurs to create law-and-order problem in the country," Ms. Bhutto said in a speech at a seminar here, as quoted by the official APP news agency. The function was arranged by the minority Shi'ite community's Imamia Council ahead of holy month of Muharram starting later this week. Sectarian trouble usually erupts during the Shi'ite commemoration of the martyrdom of the Prophet Mohammad's grand son Imam Hussein on the 10th of Muharram, the first month of the Muslim lunar calendar. "In its bid to cow down Pakistan to desist from lending a principled and moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmir cause, the neighbouring country was hatching conspiracies one after the other to create internal problems for Pakistan," she added.

50 wounded as artillery duels rock Kabul

KABUL (AFP) — At least 50 civilians were wounded here Wednesday as artillery fire rocked the Afghan capital during daylight hours for the first time in about a month, doctors said. The ordinance started exploding early in the morning, contrary to the warring factions practice of night-time attacks during the past month, they said. Sources here said the city's four hospitals had received some 50 civilian casualties by midday as forces loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani and troops belonging to Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and his military ally, General Abdul Rashid Dostum, exchanged fire. Fighting since Gen. Dostum staged an abortive coup to topple Mr. Rabbani in early January has claimed more than 2,500 civilian lives. Red Cross sources here last month said more than 17,000 people had been wounded in the prolonged battle for Kabul. The factions here do not release their military casualties.

Detained Germans allowed to leave Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — A military court in Ankara ruled that three Germans detained after speaking at an anti-war conference were free to leave Turkey, their lawyer said on Wednesday. The court is expected to decide later whether to charge the men for allegedly trying to turn people against the Turkish army, lawyer Oguz Ugur Olor told Reuters. The Germans attended a May 17 meeting of the Istanbul anti-war association and spoke about pacifism and the situation of conscientious objectors in Germany. After the meeting they were detained by police for one night. The three Germans said they planned to leave Turkey on the next available flight. "It's a very pretty country but I don't plan to return for a long time," said Gernot Lennert, one of the detained men. The military has grown increasingly sensitive about the rising number of men and are evading compulsory military service and penalties for draft dodgers were recently tightened.

N. Korea scuppers last chance of reactor inspection — IAEA

VIENNA (Agencies) — North Korea appeared on Wednesday to have scuppered any chance of an inspection of its suspect Yonghyon nuclear reactor by virtually completing the discharge of spent radioactive fuel.

Asked about the reactor, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) spokesman David Kyd told Reuters in Vienna: "Yes, it is practically defuelled. The discharge is virtually completed."

He said the information came from two IAEA observers on the spot who had not been permitted to test the spent fuel.

North Korea defiantly stepped up the international crisis over its nuclear activities last week by preventing the inspectors from "selecting, segregating and storing" a scientific sample of reactor core elements to determine independently the history of the reactor.

Completion of the defuelling removes the best evidence the IAEA could have obtained in its task of determining whether fuel had been diverted secretly to make nuclear bombs.

South Korea, calling the North's attitude an "outright challenge" to the world, said there was now no other option than to impose United Nations sanctions on its Stalinist brothers to the North.

But the major powers had different ideas of securing an effective means of wooing North Korea back from the brink of becoming an outlaw nuclear-weapons power, and thereby seriously destabilising Asia.

China, Pyongyang's only major ally, reaffirmed its "blood-bound" friendship with North Korea and slammed the idea of sanctions as championed by the United States, Japan and South Korea.

China, which has repeatedly opposed the use of sanctions in

bringing North Korea to heel over its suspected nuclear programme, has used the presence in Beijing of the highest-level military delegation to visit China since 1992 to ram home its commitment to maintaining bilateral ties with Pyongyang.

"China deems it an unshakable policy to strengthen and develop the blood-bound friendship between the two countries," President Jiang Zemin told the head of the delegation, North Korean People's Army Chief of Staff Choe Gwang on Tuesday.

At the same time, Foreign Minister Qian Qichen took advantage of a visit by a Maltese ministerial delegation to reiterate China's opposition to sanctions against North Korea in a statement that was widely disseminated in the Chinese press.

"Sanctions are not a sensible choice, as they would only aggravate the crisis," Mr. Qian told Maltese Vice Premier Guido de Marco.

"China holds that efforts should be made to maintain peace and stability and achieve denuclearisation on the Korean Peninsula," Mr. Qian said, adding that only negotiations between the two Koreas, the United States and the IAEA could resolve the current crisis.

The timing of Mr. Qian and Mr. Jiang's remarks sent a clear message to the U.N. Security Council, which is currently holding informal discussions on the Korean issue.

China is considered Pyongyang's last major ally in the world. It helped the communists in the North Korean war at the cost of a million Chinese lives, and remains a major supplier of oil and other raw materials.

According to Chinese officials, the South Korean foreign minister, arriving from a meeting with the Security Council in New York, was to hold talks

with Mr. Qian over breakfast on Thursday.

Mr. Han was expected to lobby the Chinese government in favour of economic sanctions against North Korea in a bid to force Pyongyang to open its suspect nuclear facilities.

North Korea meanwhile, continued its warnings against what it called military provocations by South Korea and the United States as tensions remained high because of the nuclear standoff.

The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) accused South Korea of "illegally introducing recoilless guns and large-calibre machine-guns into the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) and staging a shooting exercise against the North" on Monday and Tuesday.

"This is a deliberate and premeditated military provocation designed to push to a higher pitch of strain the situation in the DMZ where armed forces of the two sides are in acute confrontation," said the official Pyongyang news agency.

KCNA said on Monday that South Korea on Friday brought recoilless guns to the DMZ, committing "military provocations in an unbroken chain."

On Saturday, KCNA also charged that South Korean troops had fired guns toward the DMZ and that U.S. warplanes staged air-strike drills against the North earlier in the week.

South Korean troops, as well as South Korea's police forces, are on a 24-hour alert against possible sabotage or anti-government activity.

North Korea's 1.1 million-member military also remains on heightened alert. But Kim Deok, the director of Seoul's agency for national security planning, said North Korea has not shown unusual troop movements in spite of its threats.

Palestinian human rights ombudsman is launched

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Palestinians launched an Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights on Wednesday to act as a watchdog against abuses of power by their own people, including Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"We have gone and will go to the highest levels," said commissioner-General Hanan Ashrawi, the former spokeswoman to the Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks.

"We have already addressed President Arafat on several issues and we will continue to do so," Dr. Ashrawi told a press conference.

But she dismissed a question alleging Mr. Arafat had a reputation for "dictatorial decisions" which could lead to conflict. "This is not directed against any individual or the new authority. We are not an opposition group."

Dr. Ashrawi noted that the commission, which will oper-

ate as an ombudsman throughout the occupied territories as well as the self-rule areas, was unprecedented in the Arab World.

"We are trying to change the whole way of Palestinian behaviour. We want to see that this nation-building starts on a proper basis... and safeguard democratic principles."

The commission takes its "legal" status from the PLO's proposed basic law until the election of a Palestinian assembly, scheduled late this year.

"We consider ourselves a legally constituted state institution acting as an ombudsman... part of a comprehensive national building process," Dr. Ashrawi said.

However, she admitted that the assembly, which would be asked to approve the commission, could decide to scrap it.

The commission would be headquartered in East Jerusalem, despite the recent Israeli uproar over Palestinian institutions in the occupied Holy City.



Hanan Ashrawi

It was not part of the agreement for self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, Dr. Ashrawi said. "This is not one of the offices of autonomy," she insisted.

"We are coordinating with the Israelis. This has nothing to do with the Israeli authorities."

The commission claimed an early success in persuading the new police force in Jericho to shelve plans to appropriate empty houses in the West Bank town.



VICTIM OF WAR: A volunteer in the Aden hospital on Wednesday takes care of a small boy badly burnt during an attack by North Yemen forces against the Aden oil refinery. The child's family were all killed during the bombardment (AFP photo)

Jordan-Israel accord draws mixed reactions

By Natasha Bukhari

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The results of the trilateral Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. talks in Washington on Tuesday draw mixed reactions among Parliament members, government officials and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials.

The two-day session produced agreements to resume talks on issues of border security, water and the environment in the Middle East region next month.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Deputy Abdul Karim Kabarti, member of the Lower House's Democratic Progressive Coalition (DPC), said the agreements reflected Jordanians' and Israelis' commitment to achieve "real" progress on the ground.

"It is a positive step which will lead to a better Jordanian interaction with the peace process," said Mr. Kabarti, a liberal.

He said the repercussions of holding the next round of negotiations in the region are undefined in the absence of the formation of a clear picture of a Jordanian public opinion concerning the issue.

"The turning point in the Jordanian policy vis-a-vis the peace process is a major transformation in the right direction," said a PLO official who spoke on condition of anonymity. He said that Jordanian-Israeli developments on the peace front go "hand in hand" with Palestinian-Israeli developments.

He also supported Jordan's efforts to hasten the pace of the negotiations saying Jordan had to "catch up on the developments of the peace pro-

cess." Asked how the Palestinians viewed the holding of the peace talks in the Middle East in July, the PLO official said that all Arabs in the region were heading towards normalisation of relations with Israel and that the policy of "national virginity" no longer applied to Arab states.

He said Jordan's inclination to defend its own interest was bound to have positive repercussions on the whole region because the interests of all Middle Eastern states are interrelated.

"I believe in decentralisation of negotiations because the residue of single efforts will lead to a higher national interest for all parties concerned," the PLO official said.

Asserting that Jordan is and has always been the pioneer of "realistic policies" in the region, the PLO official reiterated his faith in Jordan's political wisdom to achieve what it aspires for on the economic and political levels.

On the other hand, Islamic Action Front (IAF) Deputy Hamzeh Mansour criticised what he described as "Jordan's submission to Israel's greedy ambitions to occupy the whole region."

Mr. Mansour told the Jordan Times that the Islamists' opposition to the peace process had not changed and that they oppose the Washington agreements just as much as they do the Oslo and Cairo accords.

The deputy warned Arabs against holding unilateral negotiations because, he said, they weaken the Arabs' chance to resolve "their conflicts."

Mr. Mansour criticised Jordan's stand as an "open invitation" for an Israeli domination over the country.

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12-year-old aviatrix lands in Scotland

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — Twelve-year-old Vicki Van Meter completed her trans-Atlantic flight, touching down in Scotland at the end of a three-hop flight from Maine. "I always thought it would be real hard and it was," she told reporters at Glasgow International Airport. "A lot of people really helped me along the way. They taught me to fly, I didn't do it myself." Flying a plane she calls Harmony, the sixth-grader from Meadville, Pa., accompanied by her flight instructor Curt Arnsperger — believes she is the youngest girl to pilot a plane to Europe. She ducked when Mr. Arnsperger tried to spray her with champagne, and the wind blew most of the fizz back on him. Vicki admitted to some difficulties on the last 800-mile (1300 km) leg from Iceland, because ice formed on the wings and Arnsperger advised her to go above the cloud to 13,500 feet (4100 metres). Normally she flew between 3,000 and 7,000 feet (900-2100 m). "I started to feel very tired, dizzy, but we had to stay up that high to get rid of the ice. I had to make do with too little oxygen and I was glad Scotland wasn't so far away," said Vicki, who smiled as she patiently answered questions. "She flew the entire flight herself," Mr. Arnsperger said. "I was her adviser and to be there for any unforeseen difficulties. But she did everything from start to finish — taking off, navigating, communicating with the ground, and landing. The flight plan planned by the young pilot closely follows that of Amelia Earhart's 1932 solo flight across the Atlantic. Vicki's father, Jim Van Meter, had said he planned to allow her a sip of champagne in Glasgow. But she arrived well before her parents, who took a commercial flight from Reykjavik. About 30 people were on hand to greet her, including members of the Glasgow Flying Club. Van Meter said Vicki has been at the controls of the single-engine Cessna-210 the whole way. Arnsperger has been videotaping Vicki's landings. Vicki was greeted in Greenland Monday by about 40 people. Inuit children held up signs welcoming her and chanting, "Vicki, Vicki," her father said, adding, "she had no idea any of this was coming." Another 30 people turned out to meet Vicki when she landed in Reykjavik, Iceland. "I'm her dad but I've got to say it was a beautiful landing," Van Meter said.

U.K. author says Kennedys thwart book

BOSTON (R) — A British author has dropped plans for a second volume of his controversial John F. Kennedy biography, accusing the dead president's family of blocking release of key documents, the Boston Globe reported Tuesday. Nigel Hamilton, the author of JFK: Reckless Youth, said the Kennedy family prevented the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston from releasing important material and induced senior officials of the Kennedy administration not to cooperate with the author. "It has been said," Mr. Hamilton told the Globe "for me to watch how this family has sought to marginalise what I was trying to do and deliberately falsify my purposes, my aims and put out to the world that I am some sort of scurrilous, muckraking Brit." A spokesman for Senator Edward Kennedy — the late president's only surviving brother — said his office had no comment on Mr. Hamilton's allegations. Mr. Hamilton, who lives in Newton, Massachusetts, and has a teaching post at the University of Massachusetts in Boston, was not immediately available for comment. Mr. Hamilton's first volume of JFK: Reckless Youth tracked Kennedy's early life until his election to the U.S. Congress in 1948. The book raised the Kennedy family's ire by focusing on the president's youthful sexual adventures. It included anonymous speculation that Kennedy's father, Joseph, had sexually abused his retarded daughter, Rosemary, and accused Kennedy's mother, Rose, of neglecting John when he was a child. After the book was published in 1992, the Kennedy family retaliated in an op-ed column in the New York Times, saying "the book is not worth the paper it is printed on."

Oxford University confers degree on Clinton

OXFORD (AP) — Oxford University, which has produced most of Britain's prime ministers, awarded a doctorate to its first American president Wednesday — a man who spent some of his student days at Oxford protesting the Vietnam war.

President Bill Clinton, at the end of an eight-day trip to London, arrived here from London on Wednesday. He continued to theme in his acceptance speech, saying his journey to the war's battlegrounds has "profoundly deepened my own commitment to the work the people of the United States have entrusted me."

Mr. Clinton made no mention of his war protest activities, but an ironic reminder came with the shouts of protesters outside, some of them objecting to Mr. Clinton's meetings with Italian leaders linked to fascism.

Dressed in a crimson robe, Mr. Clinton received a doctorate in civil law by diploma at the 17th-century Sheldonian Theatre. Such degrees are conferred only on heads of state and members of royal families in recognition of statesmanship.

About 250 Oxford students staged a sit-in demonstration outside the historic hall. Police routed Mr. Clinton around the

demonstrators, but he could hear them during the award ceremony and took note of the noise.

Mr. Clinton said the protest was part of Oxford tradition. "Everything from disputes over battles to the nature of the Italian government to the character of the word 'skinhead' is being debated even as we are here," Mr. Clinton said.

Expressing appreciation once again for the valour of allied forces in World War II, Mr. Clinton said "our memories of that sacrifice will be forever alive. But our obligations surely go beyond mem-

ory. After all," he said, "when the soldiers of D-Day broke through at Normandy, when the sons and daughters of democracy carried on their struggle for another half century, winning the cold war against the iron grip of totalitarian repression, they fought not for the past but for the present and the future."

Oxford was the last leg of a trip commemorating the 50th anniversary of D-Day with ceremonies at American cemeteries in Normandy, Italy and Britain.

Mr. Clinton studied politics at Oxford's University college

as a Rhodes scholar from October 1968 to June 1970 but did not complete work on a degree.

The degree citation — in Latin — praised Mr. Clinton as "a doughty and tireless champion" of peace and a foe of gridlock. "He has a powerful collaborator in his wife," especially in health reform, it said.

Two fellow Rhodes scholars in his administration, Labour Secretary Robert Reich and presidential adviser George Stephanopoulos, accompanied him.

After the nostalgic visit, the president and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton were flying back to Washington.

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